RP businessmen rap politicos, media

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2001 ★ ~~76~~ 72 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 342 ₱15

Knock-kneed Erap?

AYOKO NG PIKI!

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada could end up knock-kneed or bow-legged if he does not undergo knee surgery in the States, his personal physician warned.

Dr. Larry Hocson was

KNOCK-KNEED/ A20

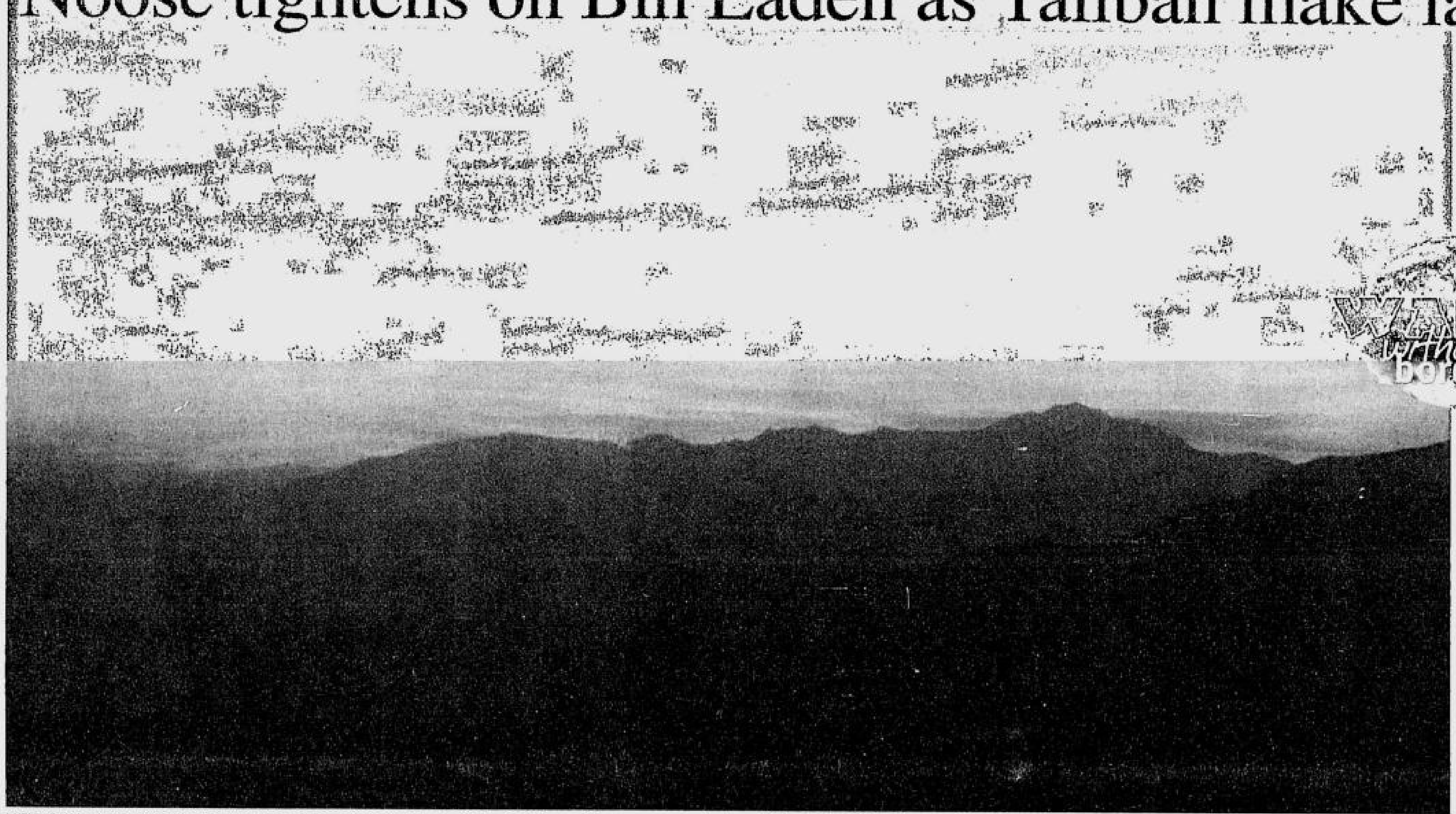
IN *Saturday*SPECIAL

- Mark Wahlberg goes from fan to rock idol
- Musical seeks to depict Princess Diana as a heroine
- Tarantino lines up Asian action greats for film

WAHLBERG

Al-Qaida leaders captured

Noose tightens on Bin Laden as Taliban make last stand



NEW SUN OVER KABUL: As Muslims all over the world await the sighting of the new moon to signal the start of the holy month of Ramadan, a new sun rises over Kabul with the dawning of a new order, ending the repressive reign of the fundamentalist Taliban.

GETTY IMAGES

WASHINGTON—The Northern Alliance has captured some senior leaders of the al-Qaida terrorist network in Afghanistan in what could be a valuable intelligence coup, a US defense official said Thursday.

The report boosted hopes Friday of bringing to justice Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

With Bin Laden's Taliban protectors cornered in their southern stronghold of Kandahar, Washington believes the Saudi-born dissident is running out of friends, time and places to hide.

"We have reason to believe that the Northern Alliance has come into possession of some senior leaders," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

The official said Bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader accused of plotting the plane hijackings and suicide crashes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, was not among those captured by the Northern Alliance.

But the official described the captives, who were not identified, as "some fairly senior players" in al-Qaida.

AL-QAIDA/ A7

'Couples' no longer for Gloria

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

BECAUSE of the government's perceived lack of direction, priorities and vision on how to bring order in the country and resolve its economic problems, non-government organizations that supported President Macapagal-Arroyo's rise to the presidency through Edsa II are in search of another presidential candidate for the 2004 elections.

This is according to a high-ranking officer of the Couples for Christ (CFC), one of the groups that helped engineer the ouster of President Joseph Estrada and install Ms Macapagal in power.

Ado Paglinawan said some "civil society" groups are looking for another candidate to support in the 2004 presidential elections.

COUPLES/ A21

NEW YORK VISIT

Gloria hits ground running

BY JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.

NEW YORK (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is making a stop in America's premier city on her way to meet US President George W. Bush in Washington, arrived here Thursday on a 20-seat private Learjet.

A staunch supporter of the US-led international campaign against terrorism, Ms Macapagal on Friday was to address the UN General Assembly, visit Ground Zero, the site of the collapsed World Trade Center twin towers, and meet with prospective US investors here.

The chartered Learjet landed at a private airport in Teterboro, New Jersey, very early on Thursday, skipping three New York metropolitan airports, including the John F. Kennedy Airport in Queens where an American Airlines Airbus crashed upon takeoff last Monday.

Security at the JFK, La Guardia and Newark airports has been very tight after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Security was also tight at the Teterboro airport where the President's Learjet landed from San

GLORIA/ A21

Merger may lead to neglect of agriculture

BY TJ BURGONIO

(Last of two parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

IT IS not just the jobs of some 40 government employees that are at stake in the consolidation of two of the government's billion-peso credit guarantee funds. The administration's declared pro-agriculture policy is now itself under a cloud.

Last May, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor objected to the forced merger of the Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (GFSME) and the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. (SBGFC) because, he said, it would disadvantage small farmers and fishermen "who do not have easy access to credit for agricultural and fisheries production."

In interviews with the INQUIRER last month, the management of the merged agency said the SBGFC, as the surviving entity, would continue to support the agri-fisheries sector. But neither SBGFC chair Zorayda Amelia Alonzo nor president Benel Lagua could say by how much.

In his May 18, 2001 letter to then acting Executive Secretary Renato Corona, Montemayor noted that of the P6.21 billion in loan guarantees the GFSME extended between 1984 to 2000, "53 percent (were) in the agriculture, fisheries and agribusiness sectors."

But Lagua, the former managing director of the GFSME, admitted that with the merger, "(we) don't know the percentage yet because there's no plan on the reorganiza-

MERGER/ A20

Speaker signs impeachment rap against Desierto

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THE HOUSE of Representatives will start investigating Ombudsman Aniano Desierto with Speaker Jose de Venecia's endorsement yesterday of the impeachment complaint filed against him more than a week ago.

De Venecia signed the 400-page complaint filed by lawyer Ernesto Francisco, effectively transmitting it to the House committee on rules that, in turn, will send it to the committee on justice for investigation.

"My constitutional duty is to transmit the complaint," De Venecia said at a news conference. "The judgment as to whether it (is sufficient in) form and substance will be made by the committee on justice chaired by Nonoy (Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino) Libanan."

The Speaker refused to issue fur-

SPEAKER/ A6

Cloned human embryos now in the works

LEXINGTON, Kentucky—The first cloned human embryos could be produced "pretty soon," a scientist involved in a controversial international project to clone humans, a medical specialist on human reproduction, Panayotis Zavos, said Thursday.

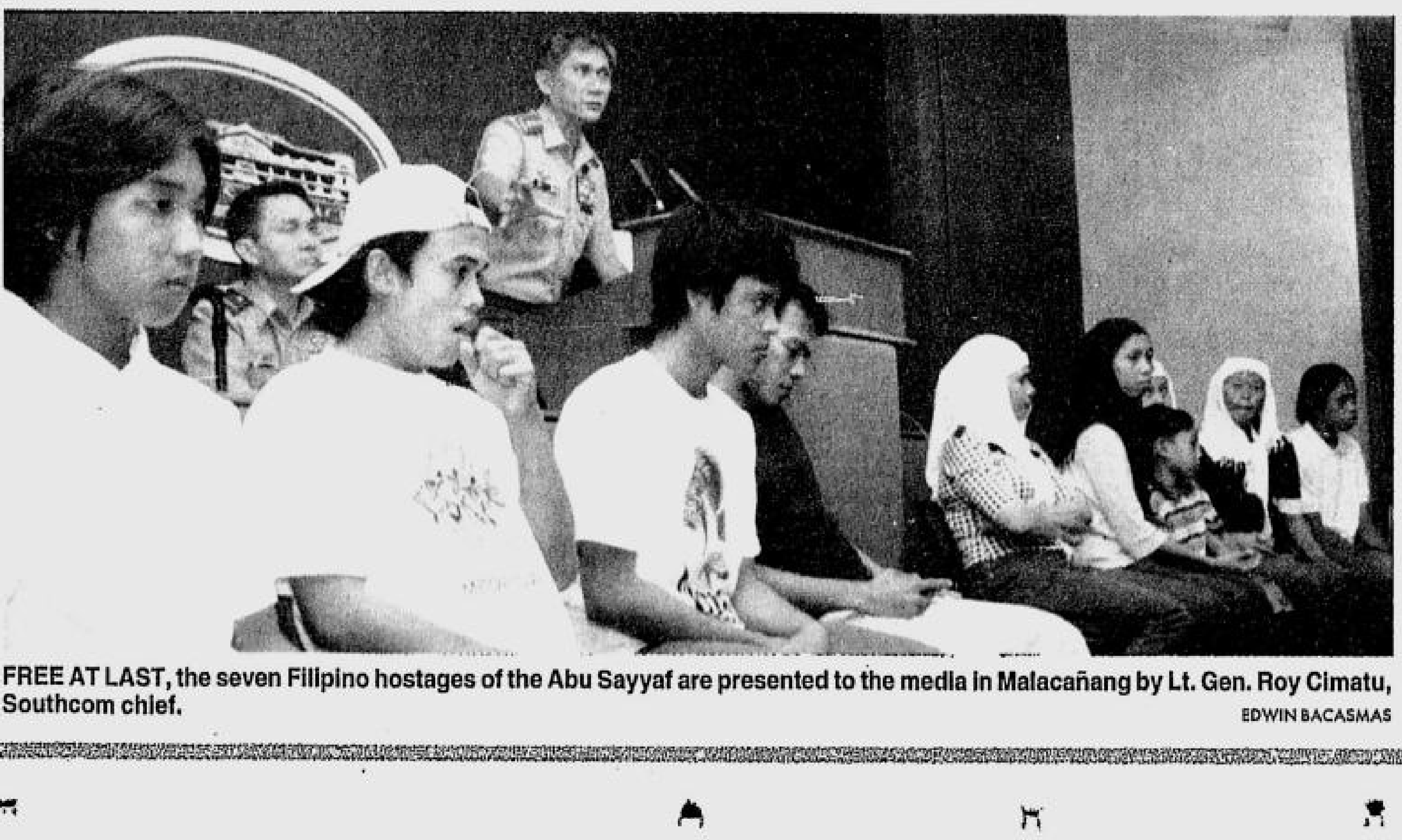
Ten couples who are unable to have children on their own are participating in his research, conducted in two secret laboratories in one or two countries which Zavos refused to name.

"We will be attempting pretty soon the first nuclear transfers," Zavos told AFP in an interview. "As we speak, we are running now."

He said the production of the cloned embryos would take place sometime before the end of the year, or at the start of 2002 at the latest,

CLONED/ A6

Hopes high for rescue of US hostages



FREE AT LAST, the seven Filipino hostages of the Abu Sayyaf are presented to the media in Malacañang by Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, Southcom chief.

EDWIN BACASMAS

BY CARLITO PABLO

HOPES are high that the two Americans held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf will be rescued on or before President Macapagal-Arroyo meets with US President George W. Bush at the White House on Nov. 20.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, yesterday said the rescue of missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham from "about 74" bandits holding them was "a big possibility."

"All my forces are dedicated to conduct the rescue," Cimatu said at a press conference in Malacañang, where he and other military officials presented seven of the hostages recovered last Nov. 15 and two others freed earlier.

"We are there and waiting for that big opportunity. The Light Reaction Company, which was trained by the US military, is there to conduct the rescue operation," he added.

President Macapagal is "very hopeful" that the Burnhams, the last of the group abducted on May 27 from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, would be recovered before her meeting with Bush, according to her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao.

HOPES/ A20

YAN BA ANG TUNAY NA DAHILAN?

RP business group raps politicos, press

Stop strife in gov't, sensationalism in media

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

IT APPEARS the country's largest organization of businessmen would rather shoot the messenger than listen to the message.

Yesterday, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) called for an end to political strife in government and sensationalism in media, blaming these for pushing to the sidelines the pressing problems facing the nation and driving investors and tourists away.

In resolutions passed after the annual Philippine Business Conference, the PCCI asked public officials to end their political bickering and get to work full-time on the economy.

The PCCI said the bickering had created a "politicized atmosphere" where the needs of business and the poor have been ignored and sidetracked.

The PCCI also blamed media for sensationalizing stories involving public officials and for printing negative news items detrimental to the country's economic development, particularly on crime.

The organization appealed to media to formulate a set of ethical standards calling for sensitivity, sobriety and responsibility in news coverage, including an agreement not to show graphic pictures of crime victims in print or on television.

The PCCI resolutions echoed views aired recently by Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul Concepcion, who pushed for a one-year moratorium on adversarial politics and negativism as a means of addressing the "free-wheeling democracy and media," which he claimed have kept the Philippines from reaching its economic potential.

On the problem of kidnappings for ransom, the PCCI called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to form a super body to oversee anti-kidnapping efforts and to apply the law on capital punishment on convicted kidnapers.

In another resolution, the PCCI urged Congress to defer enacting any more economic laws unless these are assured of government funding.

The PCCI complained that too many economic reform laws were not being implemented because of insufficient funding from the cash-strapped government and the lack of technical expertise.

The PCCI cited the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, which was passed in 1998 but has not received its P20-billion budgetary allocation as mandated by the law. The PCCI said the government should allocate these funds starting next year.

The PCCI also urged the administration to fulfill its commitment to the Agriculture Competitiveness Fund (Acef), one of the safety nets promised by the government when it liberalized trade in 1995.

The PCCI claimed that only the sugar industry has benefited from the fund, as they asked the government to fully implement the law and extend its life by six more years.

Inquirer company acquires 2 tabloids

By Raul C. Dancel

THE INQUIRER Publications Inc. has acquired two widely circulated tabloids from the group of Chinese-Filipino business tycoon John Gokongwei Jr., marking a major foray into specific niches in the newspaper industry.

INQUIRER Publications, a 70-30 percent joint venture between INQUIRER Holdings Inc. and The Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc., has announced that it has taken editorial control and publication of "Bandera" and "Tumbok" from the Gokongwei group's Bandera Publishing Corp.

Bandera is the biggest tabloid with a circulation outside Metro Manila. With a daily circulation of 65,000 copies a day, it is the country's 8th biggest tabloid.

Tumbok, an all-Tagalog language newspaper, has a circulation of 25,000, mostly in Metro Manila.

"My goal is to double the circulation of Bandera and Tumbok within three years. To do this, each publication will be targeted at specific niche markets," INQUIRER Publications president Dennis Valdes said.

"Bandera will probably be aimed at males 30 to 55 years old and will focus on news and entertainment. Tumbok will probably be aimed at a younger male audience," he said.

With the sale of Bandera and Tumbok, the Gokongwei group completes its divestment from the newspaper industry.

In 1999, the Gokongwei group sold the Manila Times, which it acquired, from the family of Joaquin "Chino" Roces, to a group led by property developer Reghis Romero II.

The Gokongweis were forced to sell the "Manila Times" for P20 million after then President Joseph Estrada filed a multimillion-peso libel suit against the newspaper.

Estrada was irked by a Manila Times article that said he was the "unwitting ninong" to a deal involving Argentine firm Impsa.

A few months after the purchase, Romero sold the Manila Times to an Estrada crony, businessman Mark Jimenez.

Bandera and Tumbok will maintain their own editorial staff, with veteran journalists Lito Bautista and Cenon Bibe Jr. heading up the two tabloids.

Oil firms slash prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OIL giant Petron Corp. yesterday led another round of petroleum price rollbacks, slashing gasoline prices by 30 centavos per liter and the diesel and kerosene prices by 20 centavos per liter, effective last night.

Citing competitive pressure, majors Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and Caltex Phil., and new players TotalFinaElf Phil. and Eastern Petroleum said they would match Petron's price cuts.

Seaoil Petroleum Corp., meanwhile, said it was cutting prices of gasoline and diesel by 20 centavos per liter and of kerosene by 30 centavos per liter, effective at 6 p.m. last night.

Not to be outdone, new player Flying V said its rollback would take effect at 8 p.m. last night. Prices of gasoline in Flying V outlets have been reduced by 30 centavos while diesel and kerosene are now 20 centavos cheaper.

This round of price rollbacks is the fourth in a row within a period of roughly a month. It is also the eighth this year.

Virginia Ruivivar, Petron corporate communications manager, said the price cut was part of the firm's strategy to conduct phased price adjustments.

"From the usual once-a-month pricing movement, we have decided to implement more regular adjustments," Ruivivar said.

Ruivivar said Petron waited for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to make a decision about production cuts before it implemented the rollback.

Last Wednesday, the Opec moved to cut production by 1.5 million barrels per day starting Jan. 1, in a bid to push up crude oil prices.

Opec said it would effect the production cut only if non-Opec producers would cut their own production by 500,000 barrels a day.

Eastern Petroleum chair Fernando Martinez said it was unlikely that Opec could achieve its target to raise crude prices to about $25 per barrel.

Bishop: Shabu haul 'just tip of iceberg'

IBA, Zambales—"It was just the tip of the iceberg."

This was how Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez described the 334 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu seized Thursday by police in San Narciso town.

Iñiguez, prelate of the Diocese of Iba, said it was highly probable influential people were behind the rampant smuggling of drugs through Zambales.

"It is impossible for local authorities not to know about the illicit drug trade here because it involves big money," he said.

Iñiguez told the INQUIRER that although the Catholic Church has praised the police for intercepting the 334 kilos of shabu, it continues to condemn the proliferation of illegal drugs in the province.

He urged local police to remain steadfast in their pursuit of drug traffickers.

Recent big drug busts have shown that Zambales has become one of the favorite drop-off points for illegal drug shipments coming from other countries.

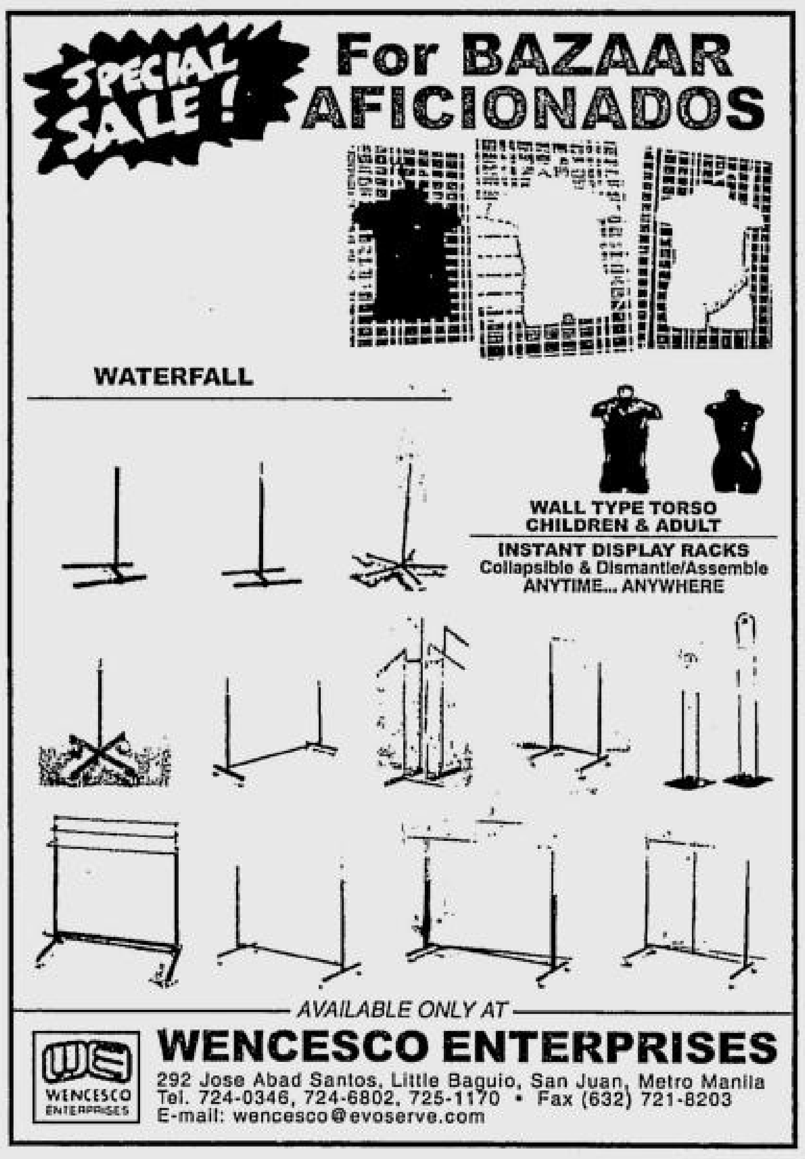
Supt. Jaime Calungsod Jr., Zambales police director, ordered checkpoints set up throughout the province to check the proliferation of illegal drugs.

In Pangasinan, the provincial board questioned police on Friday about the release of four Chinese-Filipinos from Binondo, Manila, who reportedly tried to intercede for five Chinese arrested in Dasol town last week.

The five were charged with illegal entry after two of them came ashore from their fishing boat which, on inspection by police, was found not to have any fishing equipment. The police found satellite phones instead.

Supt. Agrimero Cruz, provincial police intelligence chief, said the four Chinese from Binondo—Melinda Ong, Erick Griando, a PO1 Arron Ilao and a certain Ramon—were released since no case was filed against them.

Ong told police they were taking the five arrested Chinese to Bulacan. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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Dacer daughters decry case moving at snail's pace

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

NEARLY one year after the kidnapping and the killings, the double murder case against the suspects in the death of public relations practitioner Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver appears to be going nowhere.

Dacer's family yesterday lamented that proceedings at the Manila Regional Trial Court were moving at a snail's pace. They also asked that Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada inhibit himself from the trial of officers of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF).

"We cry out for justice. We have come to accept his (Dacer's) killing as a clear violation of human rights, but we cannot accept that his death will just come to pass and eventually be forgotten," said Dacer's daughter, Carina, in a long distance interview from California, USA.

The soft-spoken Carina said her three sisters and their relatives are frustrated over the government's failure to find the mastermind behind the abduction and killing of their father and his long-time driver, Emmanuel Corbito.

Carina said the family would be commemorating the first anniversary of their father's death on Nov. 24, with (the outcome of) the murder trial in doubt because "the main witness has not been allowed to serve as a state witness."

Police Sr. Supt. Glenn Dumlao had admitted his participation in the Dacer-Corbito kidnapping and murder and was considered a prime witness after he executed an affidavit implicating other PAOCTF officials in the crime.

Dumlao named the officers as Police Sr. Supts. Michael Ray Aquino, Cesar Mancao II and Teofilo Vina and PO3 Larry Ambre.

Judge Ponferrada, however, would not allow Dumlao to turn state's evidence, "thus removing a vital link that could lead to the identification and prosecution of the mastermind in this crime," Carina said.

She said the judge should inhibit himself from the case for "this act and for displaying hostility" toward the prosecution panel. She did not elaborate.

State prosecutor Juan Navera, who is handling the case, filed a motion to inhibit against Ponferrada yesterday.

Close to a year after the murders, Carina said three basic questions remain—"Who killed our father and his driver? Why were they killed? Who ordered their killing?"

She said the family always believed the police officers who were arrested "did not act on their own but on orders of higher-ups."

Carina said she hoped her father's case would not end up like late Sen. Benigno Aquino's assassination which till today remains unsolved despite the arrest and conviction of low-ranking military officers.

"We cannot allow this to happen. Our resources are limited. Therefore, we have convened the Truth and Justice Committee for Dacer and Corbito and asked Mr. Perfecto Yasay to chair it," she said.

DACER: One year

50 'terrorists' slip back into RP

SOME 50 Filipinos suspected of having trained with terrorist groups in the Middle East have started slipping back into the country, most via the southern backdoor, immigration authorities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport said yesterday.

Rudy David, senior intelligence officer of the Bureau of Immigration at the Naia, told the INQUIRER that the suspected terrorist "trainees" began arriving soon after the Northern Alliance started overrunning Taliban strongholds in Afghanistan.

He said the movements of the alleged terrorist trainees were monitored by the Interpol and the Department of Foreign Affairs. Some returned home through the Naia.

"Some of these personalities have been in the Middle East, perhaps in Pakistan and Afghanistan, for many years already. They are suspected of having been part of terrorist groups, possibly the al-Qaida itself," David said, referring to the terrorist network of Saudi billionaire Osama bin Laden.

"While they are the subjects of intelligence reports of the Interpol, we would not have any basis for holding them even just for questioning," David told the INQUIRER.

"One of them, Akram (Keyang Hadjirul) has been in Pakistan since 1993. We received information that he had received four years of exclusive training in Pakistan and India," David said.

According to David, Akram arrived on board an Egypt Air flight from Cairo, Egypt, on Nov. 10. He carried a passport issued in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Immigration authorities said Akram arrived with two other suspected Filipino terrorists identified as Sambatra Sumayan Macapoli and Varzkhan Hassan Daud.

The report added that three other suspected terrorist trainees arrived at the Naia on Nov. 13. They were identified as Abdulrashid Guro, Rasul Cadaly and Alfarok Aguro, who arrived aboard a Thai Airways flight.

TWO PUBLIC SCHOOLS MADE IT TO PRESTIGIOUS TEEN CHEER COMPETITION

When it comes to cheerdancing, Pedro E. Diaz and Elpidio Quirino High Schools were driven by camaraderie and determination. So they made it past the division level elimination and now they are going to pit their talents against eleven other grand finalists to the 5th Johnson's Pure Essentials Teen Cheer Competition on November 17 at the Araneta Coliseum.

This is no mean feat. The other eleven are all exclusive schools (like Assumption College and Poveda Learning Centre) which have the dispo-sition and resources to make them to excel in the prestigious teen cheer tilt. These public school entries show that talent, with the right nurturing can sprout even in a resource-challenged environment.

"I told the girls, it's going to be like going against the wall," recounts Wilson F. Pascual, coach of the Pedro E. Diaz High School team from Alabang. But scale the wall they did through the creative routine they rehearsed for months. Of course, the support they got from parents and even the city official boosted their morale.

Coach Pascual says P.E. Diaz High School is not after winning per se. "What matters is the satisfaction we get from meeting the rigid criteria set by the judges." Nevertheless, the school had been a consistent stand out in the division level. This means that since 1988, they have been making it to the grand finals.

Challenged by the super-ior skills of the other teams, Pascual was compelled to improve his own team's move-ment and stunts. He strokes the fighting spirit of his stu-dents. Current team captain Daisy Africa says, "The routine prepared by our coach is diffi-cult, but we cheerdancers do our best. We believe it is for our own good."

There was a time when parents were skeptical about the whole thing. They asked " What do young girls get from screaming, dancing, and shaking the silly pom-poms?" When they get to see their daughters actually winning in the cheer dance contest, skepticism turned into hysterical support. Indeed, it dawned on them that all the tiring rehearsals are worth their daughters's time and effort.

The cheerdanceteam of Elpidio Quirino High School of Sta. Mesa, Manila has a similar experience. They joined the competition only this year and already it earned the judge's much-coveted nod.

But it doesn't mean the team have not paid their dues. Under the tutelage of Roland "BJ" Sayno, the Quirino girls have been doing the rounds of cheering competition at the district and division level since 1998. And all the while, they have been thinking of joining the teen cheer competition.

"JPE is the big league. We ask ourselves 'Are we ready to compete in it?'", confesses Sayno. To be able to answer "yes", the team commit-ted itself to back-breaking rehear-sals beginning November 2000. They reasoned, "If P.E. Diaz made it, so can we."

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Viet incursions in Spratlys alarm RP

THE PHILIPPINES yesterday expressed alarm over increasing Vietnamese military and fishing vessel incursions into the waters off the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

The Department of Foreign Affairs said 205 Vietnamese vessels had been monitored in areas claimed by the Philippines in the first 10 months of this year, double the number for all of last year.

Department spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said Vietnamese fishing vessels had anchored off Philippine-claimed Northeast Bay in September, prompting Manila to send a diplomatic note requesting Hanoi to take "necessary action to address the incursion."

But he said the Vietnamese Embassy in Manila denied its vessels had entered Philippines waters.

Potentially sitting atop vast mineral deposits, the Spratlys are a chain of islands in the South China Sea that are claimed by the Philippines, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia.

Analysts have said the islands are considered a powder keg for conflict, with all claimants except Brunei maintaining troops in the area.

Lecaros said the Vietnamese incursion underscored the immediate need for all claimants to agree on a code of conduct in the Spratlys to help ease tensions. *AFP*

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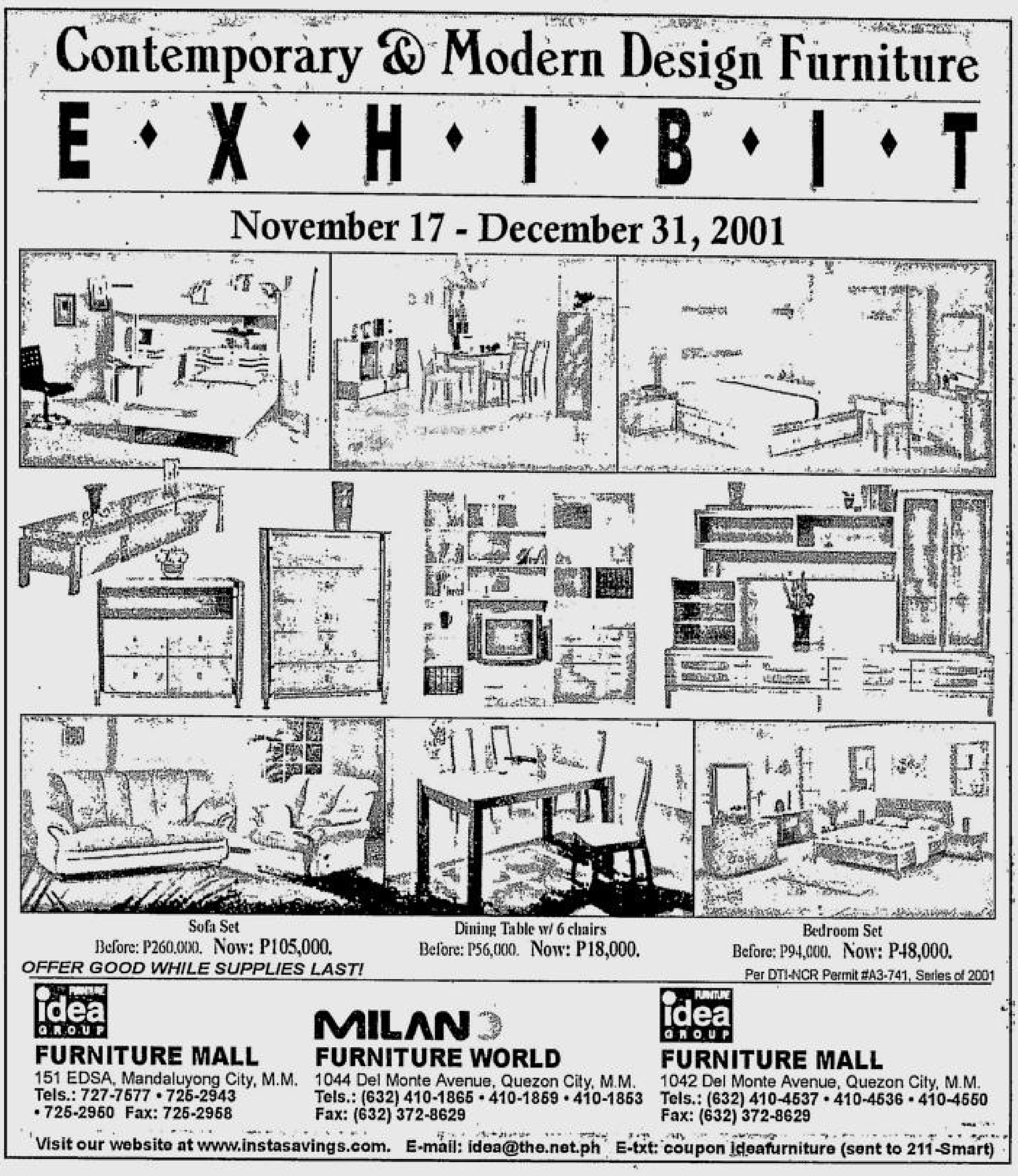
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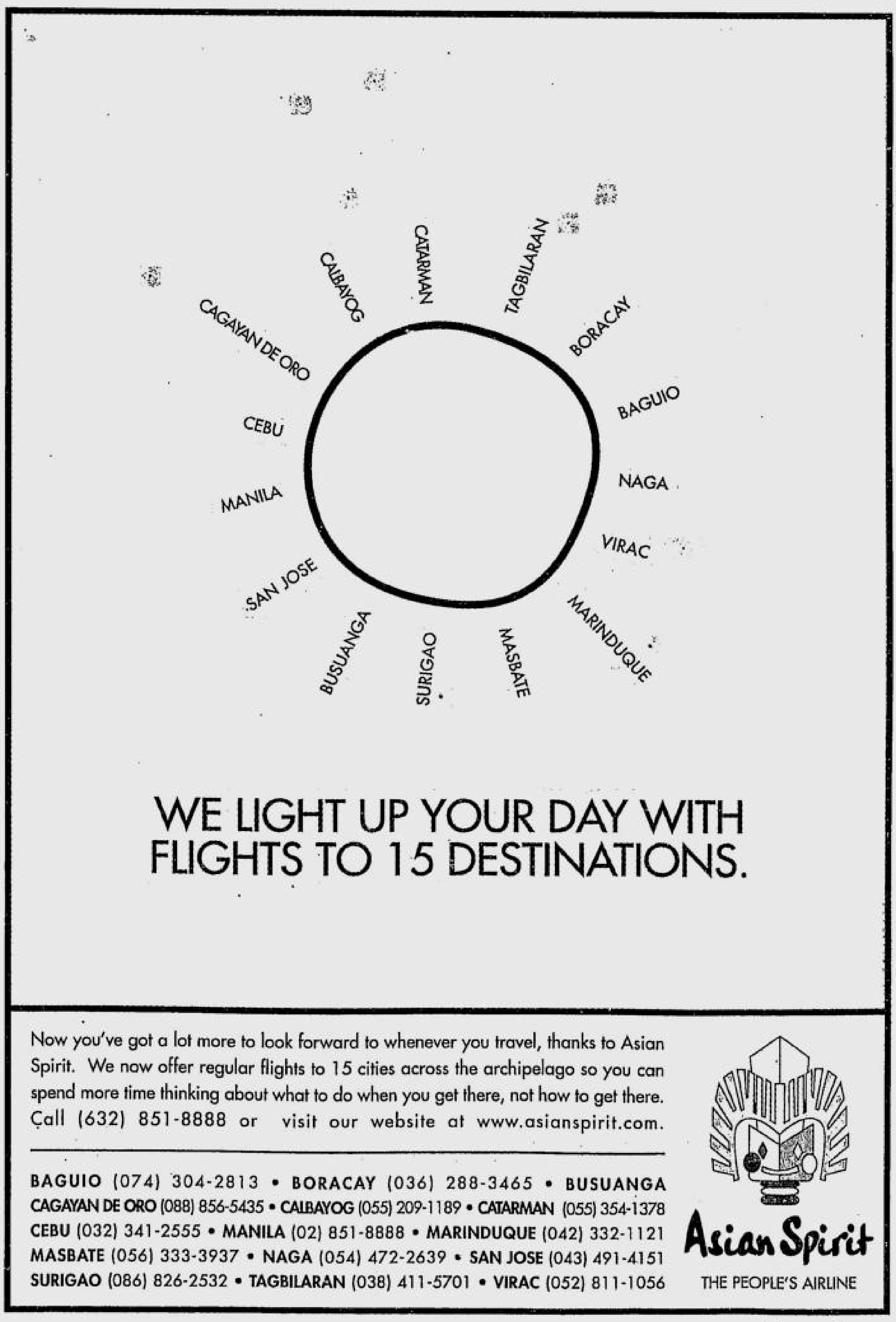

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THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE

Nida's driver clarifies 'print'

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

POLICE yesterday declined to say if Nida Blanca's driver has become a suspect in her killing, after confirming that a fingerprint taken from the actress' car belonged to him.

Blanca was found dead in her car at the Atlanta Center building in San Juan on Nov. 7. Investigators were able to lift 24 finger and palm prints from the Nissan Sentra sedan.

Her driver, Tony Borja, went to the Task Force Marsha office at Camp Crame yesterday morning to deny that he drove for Blanca on Nov. 6, or the day before the actress was found brutally stabbed to death in the back seat of the car.

"Borja felt alluded to in a news report on TV, so he came here to clear his name," Task Force Marsha spokesperson Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina said.

Espina said the driver claimed he last drove for Blanca on Oct. 13, when he took the actress and her husband, Rod Lauren Strunk, to a restaurant in the couple's other vehicle, a Nissan Vanette.

Borja, a part-time driver, told Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, Task Force Marsha chief, that he was not called to drive for either Blanca or her husband since then.

Espina said the discovery of Borja's left thumbprint on the rear view mirror of Blanca's car was not enough to make him a suspect in her murder.

He said it was possible Borja had adjusted the car's rear view mirror on or before Oct. 13, since finger and palm prints could remain on an object for several weeks.

Japan lifts travel 2 advisory vs RP, says DOT

JAPAN'S foreign ministry has modified its travel advisory to its citizens regarding travel to Luzon, Cebu, Bohol, Leyte, Samar and Masbate provinces, from alert 2 to 1.

This means that Japanese can travel to these places but "with special caution in order to avoid danger."

But Metro Manila, the Sulu Sea, the Mindanao Sea west of Davao del Sur and the rest of the Philippines remain at alert level 2, that is, Japanese are advised to postpone travel.

Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab said in a statement that the change was welcome but the department's objective is to have the advisory lifted completely.

"This travel advisory is unfair to most parts of the country, especially to those places where normality and calm reigns and where tourism generally takes place, like Boracay and Metro Manila for instance," he said.

Palabyab said Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon has requested the President for a special police force to take care of tourists. He said the department is waiting for the President to approve the request.

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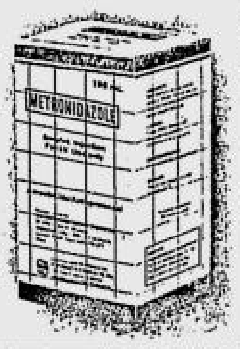
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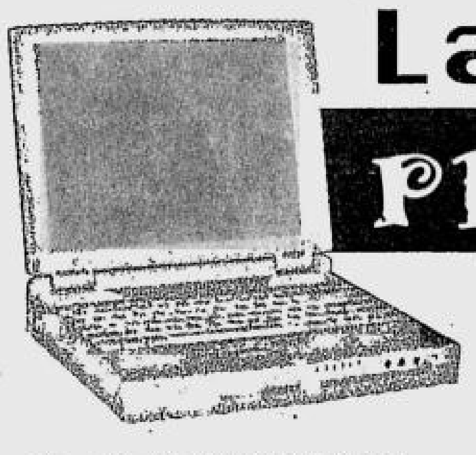
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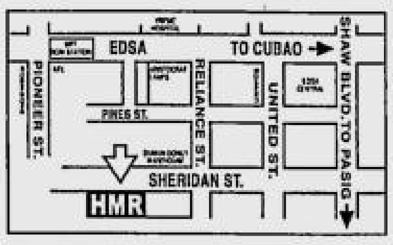

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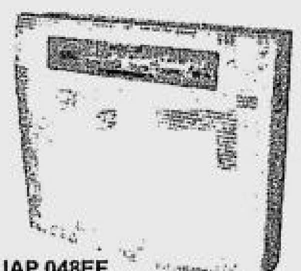
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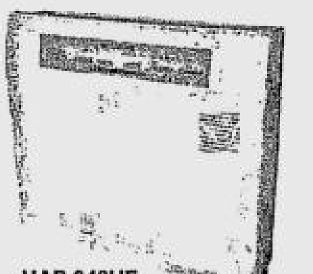
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TECHNOFORUM SCHEDULE SEMINAR ROOM 1
NOVEMBER 17, 2001 (SATURDAY) • SEMINAR FEE: P1,000.00
Title : *"COST & QUALITY OPTIMIZATION OF CONCRETE"*
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
Topic 1: *CONCRETE PERFORMANCE CONTROL*
By: Dr. Benito Pacheco - Vibrametrics, Inc.
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Topic 2: *AGGREGATES*
By: Felipe T. Sibal, Jr. - EEI-Philrock
1:00-2:00 p.m.
Topic 3: *ADMIXTURES*
By: Hedy U. Barretto - Philprime Chemical Corp.
2:15 - 3:15 p.m. Topic 4 :
TROUBLESHOOTING CONCRETE PROBLEMS
By: Francis C. Felizardo - Union Cement
3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Topic 5 :
ON-SITE TESTING OF CEMENT COMPONENTS & THEIR INFLUENCE ON CEMENT FACTOR
By: Hernani S. Pasion - Lafarge Cement Services (Phils.), Inc./PHILCEMCOR
CLOSING REMARKS:
5:15 - 5:30 p.m. By: Justo E. Manalo, PCA President, J. E. Manalo & Co., Inc.

PRODUCT DEMO SCHEDULE STAGE AREA

NOVEMBER 17, SATURDAY	
10:00-11:00AM	EEI Coporation
11:00-12:00NN	Habitat for Humanity Phils. - "Per Square Meter"
01:00-02:00PM	Pozzolanic Phil. Inc.
02:00-03:00	Penta-Isles, Inc. - "Titan Airless Spray Painting Demo"
03:00-04:00	Solar Gard Phils Corp
04:00-05:00	Scaffold Tech Services Corporation - "Polyshield SS-100: State of the Art Waterproofing Coatings"
05:00-06:00	Taytan International Corporation

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Speaker signs impeachment rap vs Desierto

(From page A1)

ther comment, saying he did not wish to "prejudge" the case.

In his complaint, Francisco said Desierto received P500,000 in cash and P270,000 worth of video equipment from his then client Luke Roxas in 1997. He said this was in exchange for delaying the investigation of a case involving Roxas' bank, the then Bank of Southeast Asia.

Both Desierto and Roxas have since officially denied this.

Francisco charged Desierto of bribery, culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust.

In New York, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao expressed the hope that Congress would swiftly act on the impeachment complaint so as not to disrupt the prosecution of the cases against her ousted predecessor Joseph Estrada.

The Office of the Ombudsman is the lead agency in the prosecution of Estrada and his co-accused.

"It's really the concern of Congress," Tiglao said in a phone interview. "We just hope that any impeachment move will be resolved swiftly—either they determine there is no basis (for it) or they push through with it."

'Big step'

Francisco yesterday described De Venecia's move as "a big step."

He said he hoped that the investigation could begin right away so the public would find out "what kind of Ombudsman Desierto is."

"I hope that in the days to come more congressmen would support it," he told the INQUIRER.

Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, who had endorsed Francisco's complaint early on, said he was congratulating De Venecia "for allowing the complaint to take its natural course."

"I hope that this will be heard by the House committee on justice as soon as possible," said Moreno, who had called on Desierto to go on leave or resign his post.

Tiglao, who is in New York as part of the President's official party for her working visit to the United States, said Malacañang was concerned that the impeachment case would bring about "some uncertainty regarding the functions and task of the Ombudsman."

"We hope this will not affect at all the Office of the Ombudsman's undertaking its job," he said.

But De Venecia said Desierto had been "vigorously pursuing" the plunder case against Estrada.

"I don't believe the (impeachment) case will prejudice the efforts of the Ombudsman to pursue the plunder case," he said.

The other day, Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Liza Maza backed the impeachment complaint and said they would urge their colleagues to do the same.

It is the second time that an impeachment complaint has been filed against Desierto.

The first was filed in 1996 by then Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez, now the national security adviser. It was dismissed for lack of merit. *With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

Cloned . . .

(From page A1)

but would not give an exact date.

"We've done it in animals, and we've done nuclear transfers of human cells into an animal ovocyte, but we haven't done a nuclear transfer of a human cell into a human ovocyte," or early-stage egg, Zavos said.

Zavos, a Greek Cypriot naturalized US citizen, belongs to an international consortium of about 12 specialists on human reproduction, including Italian physician Severino Antinori, which in January announced plans to clone a human being.

Zavos and Antinori said they would eventually impregnate up to 200 women with cloned embryos.

Initial target

Their initial target is to create embryos by transferring the nucleus of a cell from one of the two parents into an ovocyte extracted from a woman.

These 3- to 5-day-old embryos will then be frozen and studied to determine whether they present genetic, biochemical or physiological flaws, explained Zavos, director of the Andrology Institute here, which specializes in treatment of male sterility.

Once they have determined that the embryo is normal, the team will proceed to implant it in the would-be mother's uterus.

The resulting infant will be an almost identical genetic copy of one of its two parents.

Scientists long have warned about a multitude of difficulties associated with cloning mammals, including miscarriage, premature delivery, genetic abnormalities and stillbirths.

The most outspoken critics have warned that in the process of creating a healthy human clone, scientists could create dozens of deformed human specimens.

But, pointing to his 23 years' experience in reproductive medicine, Zavos said he was confident he could produce a normal embryo, thanks to a careful diagnostic process before and after implantation.

"We can screen things with humans much better than they've done with animals, and therefore we are going to pick up any deficiencies in those embryos. Then we would continue to screen those embryos post-implantation," he said.

Two bills that would prohibit reproductive cloning are currently before the US Congress. *AFP*

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Al-Qaida leaders captured

(From page A1)

"They are senior enough to provide some meaningful information," the official said. He said the captured leaders might provide clues on Bin Laden's whereabouts.

However, US officials had just learned of their capture and had not had access to them as of earlier in the day, the official said.

Although the circumstances surrounding their capture were not immediately known, the official said, "they were clearly captured" by the Northern Alliance and had not defected.

With the Taliban in retreat and under attack even in its southern strongholds, US forces in Afghanistan have intensified their efforts to capture and kill leaders of al-Qaida and the Taliban.

Some al-Qaida and Taliban leaders were killed in air strikes Tuesday and Wednesday on buildings near Kabul and in Kandahar that had been targeted because of the presence of senior leadership, Victoria Clarke, the Pentagon's chief spokesperson, said earlier.

"We are tightening the noose," said Army Gen. Tommy Franks, the commander of the US campaign in the central Asian nation. "It is a matter of time."

But so far Bin Laden and Mullah Mohammad Omar, the Taliban's supreme leader, have eluded a US dragnet that includes special forces on the ground and an array of high-tech surveillance "eyes in the sky," officials said.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld raised the possibility that Bin Laden may have slipped out of the country in a low-flying Taliban helicopter.

Porous borders

"You've got porous borders in a number of directions, you've got deep ravines, and to the extent that they may or may not have any helicopters left—we think they may—it's not beyond the realm of possibility that they could tear down one of the valleys and not be detected," he said.

"It's not a bottle you can cork. It's a large country with a lot of borders," he said.

The US defense secretary said he thought Bin Laden would be found "either there or in another country."

"But it seems to me that we have to be quite realistic about the task, and the task is, as the general said, to go get the senior leadership of both Taliban and al-Qaida," Rumsfeld said.

Franks was in Washington to brief the chiefs of staff and the president's top national security team on where the campaign will go now that the Taliban has suffered stunning defeats, relinquishing control of the north and fighting for survival in the south.

Both he and Rumsfeld refrained from pronouncing the Taliban defeated, however, noting continued fighting in Kandahar and in the northern town of Kunduz, where some 2,000 to 3,000 al-Qaida fighters were holding off ground attacks and US air strikes.

"But what is important to us is the destruction of the al-Qaida network, a terrorist network with global reach," Franks said. "So we remain fixed on that mission, as well as on the Taliban that provides safe harbor for that."

More troops

Rumsfeld said the United States may send in more ground troops to secure and repair airfields to be used to go after al-Qaida and Taliban leaders, and possibly expand humanitarian operations.

US special forces, meanwhile, have begun searching sites where weapons of mass destruction may have been produced as they fall from Taliban control, but have found nothing substantial yet, said Franks.

Heavy US bombing of Kandahar continued on Thursday night and Friday, according to the Afghan Islamic Press.

The Pakistan-based agency quoted sources in the southern city as saying a Taliban foreign ministry office in the eastern part was targeted and destroyed in the raids.

Bin Laden was last seen on Nov. 8 when he gave an interview to a Pakistani journalist, Hamid Mir.

British defense sources have said that while intelligence had been received "from the ground" about Bin Laden's movement from time to time, it had always come too late to be "actionable" by US forces or their allies.

Kandahar and the city of Kunduz in the north are now the focus of the Islamic militia's strength after a weeklong rout that saw them melt away from Afghanistan's main urban areas, including the capital, Kabul.

Taliban digging in

"The Taliban still have a strong hold on Kandahar. They are digging in," said a spokesperson for Pashtun tribal leaders organized as an anti-Taliban force, who requested anonymity.

He estimated that 70 percent of Taliban commanders have chosen to follow Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammed Omar's call to keep fighting, while 30 percent don't want to fight.

US planes bombed Kandahar again overnight, continuing a pattern of relentless strikes on the city and environs.

A delegation of tribal leaders will go to Kandahar on Sunday to try to persuade Omar to give up, the spokesperson told The Associated Press in the Pakistani frontier city of Quetta. If they fail, or if the Taliban imprison the delegation, then ethnic Pashtun fighters in the area will be likely to take up arms against the Taliban, he said.

The anti-Taliban spokesperson also said Kandahar itself was quiet for the moment. There have been conflicting reports from the city, including some claims of street fighting as Pashtun fighters besiege Kandahar's outskirts.

Spurts of fighting

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Thursday that there were spurts of fighting near the city center as the Pashtun fighters advanced. Most of Kandahar province, outside of the city, is in the hands of anti-Taliban rebels, he said.

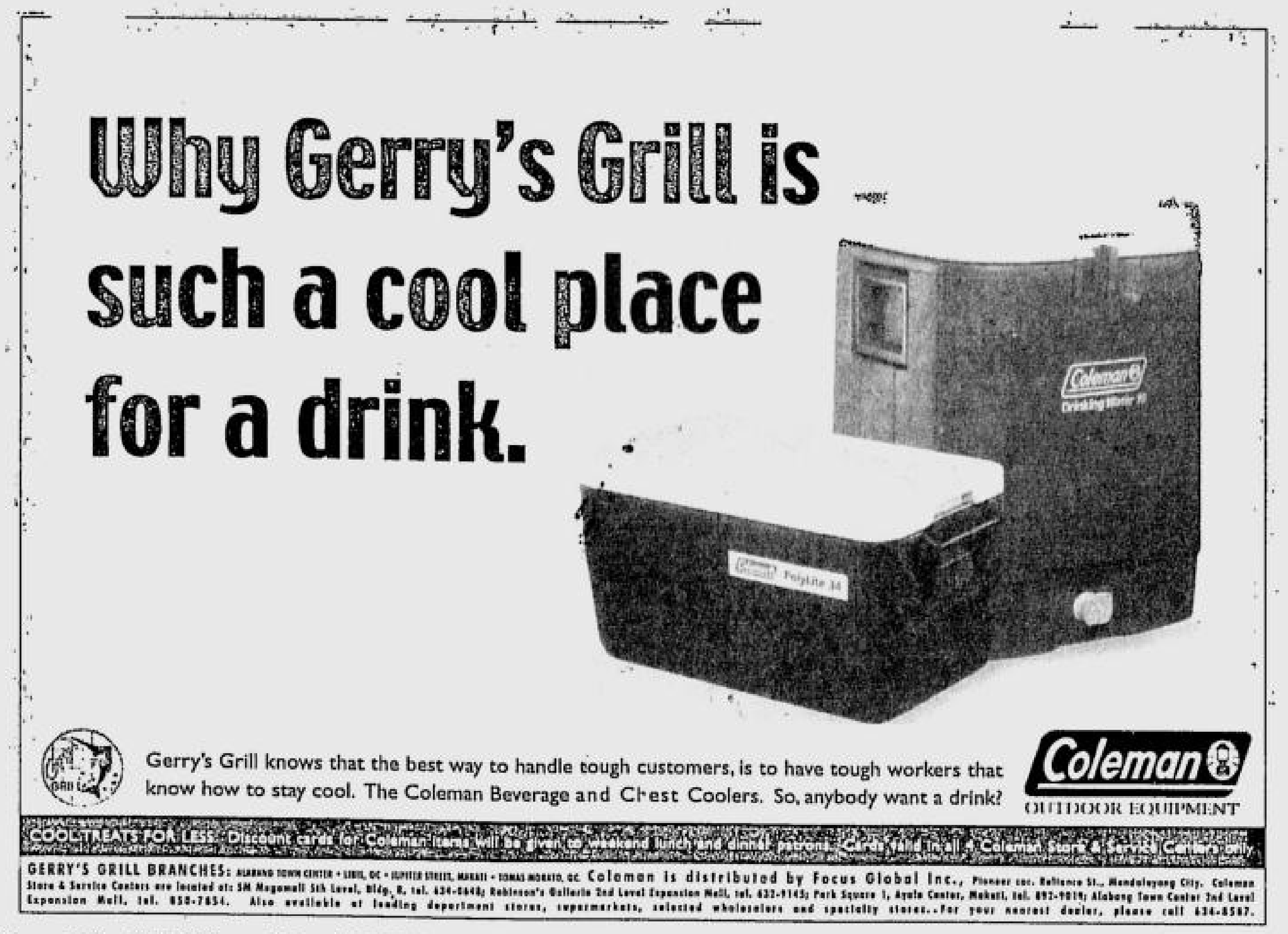
Pakistan strengthened its border defenses closest to Kandahar with tanks and extra troops, worried that unrest—and Bin Laden supporters—could spill across the frontier. At Kunduz in the north, the anti-Taliban northern alliance laid siege to the city, backed by US air strikes.

The defenders include an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 foreigners loyal to Bin Laden—who are much less likely than Afghan Taliban to simply negotiate a surrender or slip away, as the bulk of Taliban forces did in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.

Near the city of Herat, by the Iranian border, Taliban forces reportedly vacated an air base, the Afghan Islamic Press reported.

It was not immediately known whether anti-Taliban forces had taken over the base, the largest in western Afghanistan.

AFP, AP



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 16 No. 342
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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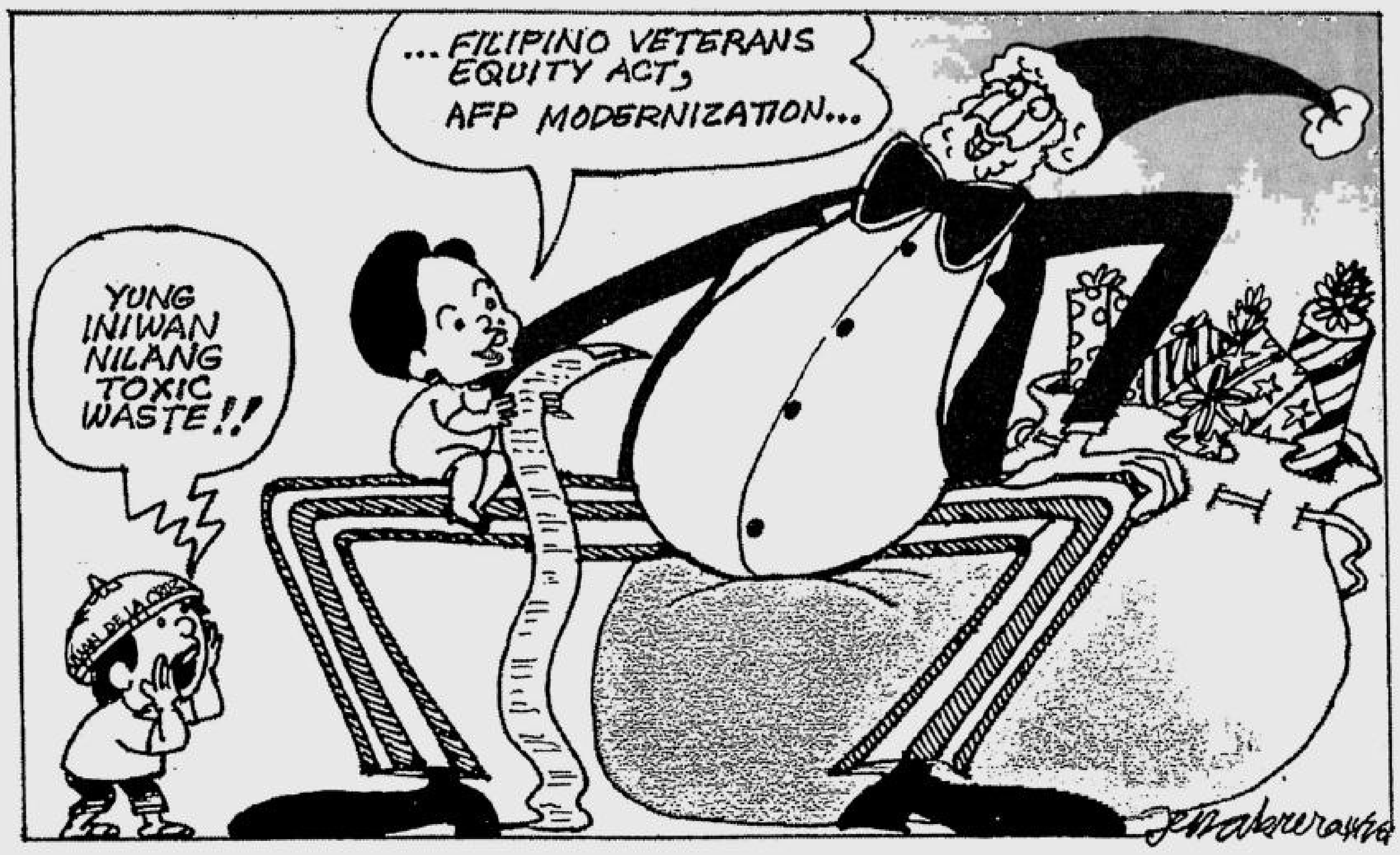
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Kidnapped economy

EDITORIAL

THE MACAPAGAL administration has lifted its head from the sand to recognize that the breakdown of law and order is the most acute concern facing the nation.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo shifted her priorities to address the rising tide of kidnappings for ransom when she told the Philippine Business Conference on Wednesday that her administration was taking action to curb criminality. With this recognition, the President indicated that it was no longer a question of whether crime statistics of private sector anti-crime "crusaders" were more reliable than those of the Philippine National Police. What's more important than quibbling over statistics is suppressing criminality before it pulls down the already weak economy and erodes public confidence in the administration's capacity to tackle the country's major problems.

For some time, until the President was jolted by reports on the rise of kidnappings, the administration had produced statistics showing lower crime incidence than those trotted out by the private sector, but everyone knows statistics don't scare kidnap gangs and don't improve the government's capacity to make the citizens and visitors safe from criminal attacks.

The anti-crime measures Ms Macapagal has spelled out include hiring more policemen, giving them more effective weapons and better equipment, purging the ranks of corrupt and incompetent policemen and arming citizens as law enforcement deputies. It takes more than these promises to reassure the community and the businessmen that they translate into action, and so the skeptical public's attitude is one of wait and see.

Among these measures, the arming of citizens as deputies is the least reassuring. It is a slide back toward vigilantism, which experience shows creates more problems than it seeks to solve by opening opportunities for abuse by deputized vigilantes. Vigilantism is a knee-jerk solution.

The President had ignored the gravity of the law and order breakdown until the business chambers shocked her with reports that the kidnapping crime was on top of their list of concerns. In a paper submitted to the administration, the American Chamber of Commerce said kidnappings had taken a turn for the worse. "It is important that the administration addresses this problem fast and effectively," the paper said. "Otherwise, the Philippines will continue to suffer the consequences of a kidnapped economy."

What the paper is saying—an observation also shared by local businessmen—is that crime has hijacked the economy by serving as a deterrent to investment flows which are already at their lowest level since the 1997 Asian financial crisis. The impact of the kidnapping wave on the economy has been felt more strongly after kidnap gangs started going after foreigners, including members of the diplomatic community. Previous to this, kidnappings were concentrated mainly in the Filipino-Chinese community where ransom extraction has become a lucrative industry.

The fact that foreign business chambers have become more outspoken in expressing concern over the kidnappings underlines lawlessness as a more critical problem to them than corruption and adversarial political developments, even though the business community also pointed out that corruption and political conflict have undermined confidence in the government and in the business environment.

A business confidence survey of people who work for companies belonging to the top 700 corporations in the country, conducted last month, showed the business confidence index dropping nearly six index points to 83.9, a new low for the year. This drop was attributed to a host of factors, including the worldwide economic slowdown in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and domestic conditions that create uncertainties, such as a breakdown in law and order and political instability.

The administration could only have been alarmed by this survey and the expression of concern over the crime wave by the business chambers, causing it to give higher priority to law and order than it had been given previously. If competence in economic management is the strength of the administration, its ability to manage criminality is in doubt. And yet, it can hardly be overemphasized that lawlessness stifles business confidence and activity.

Another disappointment

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

EUPHORIA swept the land on Jan. 20, 2001 when Joseph Estrada left Malacañang in disgrace and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took over as President of the Philippines. It was as if the light at the end of the tunnel had exploded in a blinding light to dispel the darkness and despair caused by Erap's more than two years of bumbling misrule.

There was reason for hope because the new leader brought with her bright credentials to her high office. No stranger to Malacañang, where her father before her had served in the same position she was now occupying, she had learned at his feet the values of public service. On her own, she had obtained training here and abroad for her destined role, then envisioned only as a distant albeit approachable dream.

Over the years, she served variously as Cabinet member, senator and vice president before being called, in the wake of Edsa II, to replace Estrada.

One of the most visible problems at that time was the rotting garbage that was stinking everywhere in Metro Manila. It was a national disgrace that was embarrassing the whole country as a veritable cesspool in the eyes of the international community. In a way, it also symbolized the political stench and ineptness of the past administration. It had done nothing to correct not only the mounting garbage but also the widespread corruption beginning at the very top of the government.

President Macapagal acted quickly. She imperiously called for the removal of all the trash blighting Metro Manila. She ordered this done within the week, to underline the seriousness of the problem and the urgency of its solution. In so acting, she was also figuratively calling for the end of all the political rottenness in the government that, like the garbage, had been festering without limit and beyond control.

As she ordered, the garbage was gone before the deadline; miraculously, the whole metropolis was clean again. People remembered the perennial brown-outs that used to plague the Aquino administration but were eliminated soon enough when the Ramos administration took over. The nation hoped that even as President Estrada had failed to solve the problem of the rubbish, President Macapagal would be more effective in dealing with it.

But a month later, the trash was back, now more daunting than before. Despite President Macapagal's importunings and imprecations, all manner of refuse continues to pile up everywhere in Metro Manila, to continue imperiling the lives of the people and impairing our international image.

As for the other kind of dirt, it's still here like wild grass. The political venality Edsa II railed against remains unpunished and will probably slumber with the Marcos cases that have been sleeping in the Sandiganbayan for years. Considering the advanced ages of some of the accused, they will probably die before their cases are tried and thus escape the punishment of the law, as Ferdinand Marcos did.

To Erap's glee, the justices of that court are fighting each other, thus putting his cases on indefinite hold and making his conviction a remote reality. His lawyers have also filed more than a hundred motions to date that have also slowed down the wheels of justice, which are slow enough to begin with.

Significantly, some of Estrada's old cronies have recovered their accustomed influence and are cozying up to the new President as they used to with their old deposed boss. Lucio Tan seems to be back in the graces of the Palace. Mike Velarde, who was a vociferous admirer of Erap, recently joined hands with President Macapagal in prayer with his El Shaddai followers.

There was hopeful talk of reviving the tax investigations of these Erap apostates after Edsa II, as a belated act of justice. But don't bet on it, now that they have affirmed their frayed loyalties to their new leader.

Meantime, the other confederates of the indicted ex-president remain as free as Imelda Marcos, who recently received a pension check processed in record time while thousands of needy war widows keep waiting for similar attention.

Charlie "Atong" Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte, wanted for prosecution with Estrada in the plunder cases, have fled to the United States. Michael Rey Aquino and Cesar Mancao, who are sought for the murder of Bubby Dacer and Emmanuel Corbito, are also at large abroad. What is the government doing to secure their extradition?

Panfilo Lacson, facing charges of drug trafficking and money laundering in the Senate, appears to be enjoying the protection of his colleagues. The investigation seems to have lost steam despite the devastating testimony of the witnesses against him compared to the self-defeating sworn declarations of Reynaldo Acop. Will this probe be simply swept quietly under the rug in deference to the code of the big boys club?

Lacson's attack against the administration, which he read after some of his party-mates refused to deliver it, clearly "bombed" as an obvious ploy to deflect public attention from his cases. He delivered another speech last Tuesday, obviously for the same purpose. The people will not be distracted. They are as interested in his Senate cases as in some other criminal suits poised against him, including the Kuratong Baleleng and wiretapping cases.

Meanwhile, President Macapagal continues campaigning for 2004 even as the country continues to decline. The economy is sinking; the peso keeps plummeting; peace and order worsens by the hour; more and more people are losing their jobs; prices are rising; and poverty spreads relentlessly throughout the land. Nothing daunted, President Macapagal keeps speechifying before all audiences, including the candidates of the Asia Pacific beauty pageant, of whom her only possible voter is the lone Filipina participant.

I for one had high expectations of a dramatic change in the condition of our country after the historic events that saw the downfall of Estrada and the ascension of Ms Macapagal as President of the Philippines. I now realize I was rather naïve in thinking that Edsa II would create an instant Utopia that would redeem us from the mockery and trumpery of the Erap years. I should have known better than to nurture that foolish hope after our disappointment over the betrayal of Edsa I.

Top Myanmar generals centralize power

NEWS ANALYSIS

Pascale Trouillaud

YANGON—The recent shake-up of Myanmar's military, the most significant in four years, is aimed at centralizing power and strengthening the junta's top three ruling generals, observers here say.

But citing limited information available in Myanmar, some diplomats in Yangon were saying further changes may be afoot while others pointed out that further shifts within the Tatmadaw, the local name for the army, would not be announced publicly.

Last weekend's reshuffle—the most important since the State Law and Order Restoration Council reinvented itself as the State Peace and Development Council four years ago this week—convince observers that power had become concentrated among Yangon's troika of generals. Senior General Than Shwe, head of the SPDC, General Maung Aye, vice chair of the SPDC, and Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt, first secretary and chief of military intelligence, appear to have tightened their grip on power, they said.

Among the seven high ranking officials sacked in the reshuffle were SPDC third secretary Lieutenant-General Win Myint and Deputy Premier and Military Affairs Minister Lieutenant-General Tin Hla, both of whom were deeply involved in the economic workings of the country. Two other deputy premiers and three ministers were also dismissed. And there are rumors that more could follow, an Asian diplomat said.

On Friday, the official media announced the new ministers to fill posts left vacant after the dismissals, but the changes amounted to a mere redistribution of portfolios.

Analysts in Yangon say many of the sackings aimed to remove corrupt officials while two others were made to clear out aging ministers. "The message is that they are serious about attacking corruption," said one diplomat.

Both Win Myint and Tin Hla formerly headed Myanmar's state business enterprises—Myanmar Economic Holdings and Myanmar Economic Corp.—and virtually held the nation's purse strings. Diplomats said the pair had been punished for corruption after they were apparently disgraced over complaints by Malaysian companies, which were delivered personally by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed to Than Shwe. They were also known to have stirred the ire of Japanese companies.

Win Myint and Tin Hla have been confined to their homes and interrogated over their business dealings.

"They have been too greedy," one observer said. "Rank doesn't protect you from disciplinary action anymore."

But isolating corruption among a few ranking generals could fail to address a larger problem, they added.

"Corruption was the final excuse, but the whole system is corrupt, the whole regime is corrupt," said another analyst. "The enormity of the shake-up (shows) they want to restructure deeply."

Above all, analysts were struck by the magnitude of the reorganization. Military sources say 10 regional commanders are being brought to the capital to be promoted and four "special bureaus of the military operation" are being set up. These bureaus will control the country's north, south, east and west, and therefore wield a great deal of power. Each bureau will have three regions under its stewardship.

Here they are establishing "centralized military control," said one observer, "to have more control of the regions as these guys have so much power."

The regional commanders are known to have accumulated considerable personal wealth and power in their respective areas. "There are among them some ambitious people who want to come here and get promoted," a Western diplomat based in Yangon said. "But some of them have made a lot of money in the regions and are not happy about leaving."

While the regional military shake-up has not been officially announced, the head of the central command in Mandalay sent out invitations this week for a farewell party, a source said.

The promotion of the regional commanders, who are mostly in their 50s, would introduce a younger generation of military leaders, confirmed Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Khin Maung Win. "We need a turnover," he told AFP. "It's time to bring in new men with new ideas."

Under the threat of economic sanctions imposed by the European Union and the United States for human rights violations, Myanmar has tried to project a more presentable face to maintain vital links amid a devastating economic crisis. International pressure to move forward with the "national reconciliation" dialogue could also be behind the changes in Yangon.

"Certain people think they want to prepare for a transition," explained an analyst, referring to ongoing talks between the junta and Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

And finally, analysts have seen behind the reshuffle an obvious sign that power in this country that has been under military rule for the past 40 years is concentrated among the triumvirate of ruling generals: Than Shwe, Maung Aye and Khin Nyunt.

It is likely the secretary-three post will be left vacant, as was the case with secretary two, Tin Oo, who died in a helicopter crash in February. "Secretary two and secretary three are not positions to be replaced," an observer says.

"It is very clear that the three are at the top," and the head of the trio, Than Shwe, has been "visibly reinforcing his position" recently, according to a diplomat. "It is he who decides everything in the end."

AFP

Nani Perez under the gun

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez met with three media women—Rina Jimenez-David, Carmen Navarro-Pedrosa and myself—the other evening at a Fort Bonifacio restaurant and demonstrated that despite all the attacks against him, some of them quite vicious and personal, he has kept his cool and, most importantly, his sense of humor.

When he arrived, Perez shook hands with each of us, and we immediately noted that he did not do the customary *sosyal beso-beso*. Neither did he give us a goodbye buss. We teased him about his prim and proper behavior and he quipped, "*Mahirap na, baka ma*-suspect *na naman ako*," referring to recent "white papers" accusing him of alleged illicit liaisons with a number of women and employing some of them in his department. I countered that Chit Pedrosa and I were beyond the age for illicit liaisons and he told us with eyes twinkling that some of the women mentioned in those stories were in that age bracket! In fact, some senators ribbed him that women over 60 were his "type" *pala*. We had a good laugh about it.

* * *

I have known Perez since his days as an assemblyman in the old Batasan Pambansa, just after Ninoy Aquino's assassination, and it's amazing how his political enemies are painting him to be lady killer. Perez feels particularly sad that some of his lady friends are the subject of malicious talk (one of them I happen to know quite well, because we are related by affinity). The demolition job on him apparently does not choose victims, especially now that he's scheduled to appear before the Commission on Appointments. His staff is bracing for more vicious attacks. After the commission failed to act on his nomination, he was reappointed by President Macapagal, and his Lakas colleague, Sen. Rene Cayetano, has asked that his justice subcommittee get jurisdiction over Perez—to sort of shepherd his confirmation through the Commission on Appointments.

* * *

Turning serious, however, the justice secretary stressed that he did not receive $2 million in consideration for rendering a sovereign guarantee of the government for the controversial contract involving the Argentine company, Impsa. If the opposition has any document showing that a deposit was made on his behalf with a Hong Kong bank, said Perez, it has to be fake. "Perhaps I would withdraw it and give it to charity," he added ruefully.

It has been alleged by the opposition that Perez gave that guarantee four days after the change of government. Perez pointed out that while his memorandum was stamped Jan. 20, he actually signed it on Feb. 1, and that the controversial Government Acknowledgment and Consent Agreement (Gaca) was not a sovereign guarantee but simply a "letter of comfort" for the creditor banks, saying that the government would do its best to "pressure" the National Power Corp. to pay its obligations. Perez also stressed that the memorandum was a virtual word-for-word reproduction of a memo prepared on Sept. 20, 2000 by Estrada Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero. Perez said he would not have issued it without the concurrence of the Neda chief. "I made sure that everything was all right before I issued that memo," he stressed, adding that it was not the Department of Justice but the Department of Finance that oversaw the contract. His memo, said Perez, covered only the Gaca.

* * *

So, why are all the opposition's guns, led by Sen. Serge Osmeña, trained on him at the Commission on Appointments? Perez noted that prior to being in the Macapagal Cabinet, he was content working as a private lawyer after finishing his three terms in the House of Representatives, writing law books and raising orchids. He surmised that he has become the object of vilification due to a number of reasons, among them his role in the Senate impeachment trial, his having defended the constitutionality of President Macapagal's assumption of power before the Supreme Court, as well as the legality of the state of rebellion declaration on May 1, 2001. Perez recalled with a big laugh how he told the President that he was prepared to resign if he lost the case of the administration's constitutionality before the Supreme Court. Ms Macapagal quickly countered that if he lost, he didn't have to resign since they would all lose their jobs.

Perez stressed to us that he will defend himself before the Commission on Appointments with his customary cool and composure. In those grilling sessions, he said, he who loses his cool loses the battle.

* * *

Earlier I wrote that Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo was confronted by her Chinese counterparts with the issue of their nationals being denied entry in Philippine ports. They wanted to know the reasons for this. The reasons, of course, are that a number of Chinese nationals engage in business here while holding tourist visas, and some of their activities are criminal, including drug trafficking and kidnapping.

To lessen the number of Chinese being denied entry, the Chinese government has proposed that tour groups from China be processed only by accredited and bona fide travel agencies (the six biggest travel agencies in China are government-owned). Right now, the travelers are guaranteed either by Manila-based Chinese or Filipinos, but when they disappear or get into trouble, their guarantors deny ever making any guarantee for them.

Domingo supports the idea of making Chinese tour groups pass only through known and bona fide travel agencies, which would be held responsible for the whereabouts of the tourists. This is some kind of compromise solution to the problem of illegal entrants. Both governments also agreed to exchange more information on the visa applicants and cooperate better with each other.

By the way, Perez pointed out that not only 70 but 100 percent of shabu factories in the Philippines are operated by Chinese nationals. Right there, we can see the great need for cooperation from our great neighbor up north.

* * *

My *suki* in this column, the Carmelites of the Monastery of St. Therese on Gilmore in Quezon City, are winding up their year-long celebration of the 75th anniversary of their foundation. Part of the celebration is the holding of daily Masses from Nov. 16 to 24. The morning Mass is at 6:30, especially for the parishes of Quezon City and Metro Manila, with the nuns providing the music at Mass—a simple "conventual" Mass. Then there are the afternoon Masses at 6 for the different sectors of society, with bishops, special homilists and special choirs—the solemnity Mass.

'Gene gun' blazes away

FEATURE

Jeremy Smith

LONDON—A designer "gene gun" blasting slivers of metal into an innocent soybean plant may sound like a futuristic and far-fetched way to ward off famine by improving the food supply of the world's poorest countries. So does subjecting stalks of defenseless corn to doses of high-voltage electricity, or bombarding them with sound waves. But these are just some of the techniques used by scientists striving for more versatility in altering plant cell structures in the controversial research area known as biotechnology, which tries to improve on the precision of natural plant breeding.

Their efforts, they hope, will eventually help the world's poor guard against starvation by beating crop disease and beefing up yields of staple foods such as soya, wheat and maize.

While the bulk of current research aims to improve food plants, the rest of the work is concerned with non-food crops such as cotton, tobacco, ornamental plants and pharmaceuticals.

Even though the term biotechnology refers to a wide range of technologies making use of living organisms, it has now become largely synonymous with genetic engineering, the controlled alteration of genetic material, or DNA, by artificial means.

Genetic modification (GM) involves exchanging or splicing genes of unrelated species that cannot naturally swap with each other and scientists say the applications are almost limitless.

The species can be vastly different, for example, inserting scorpion toxin or spider venom genes into maize and other food crops as a "natural pesticide" to deter insects and birds from feeding on them, or fish antifreeze genes into tomatoes.

Gene-splicing has also been used to overcome the sensitivity of fruits such as bananas and melons to lower temperatures so that they can be grown in colder parts of the world.

And scientists believe that plants can be genetically altered to grow cheap vaccines inside them, leading to the use of fruit for painless and plentiful protection against disease.

But how does genetic engineering of plants actually work?

Scientists now have a number of techniques at their disposal to move genes artificially into host organisms although only a small proportion of the target cells in the selected plant ever properly incorporate the desired DNA.

One of the most successful ways is to use "agrobacterium," a soil-dwelling bacterium, as a go-between to introduce genetic information into more than 100 plant species, mainly into wide-leafed plants such as tomato, apple and pear.

A wide variety of plant and tree varieties have been altered by this method, and the technique was used to modify the first genetic plants ever produced—tobacco, petunia and cotton.

When the bacterial DNA is integrated into a plant chromosome, it effectively hijacks the plant's cellular machinery to ensure that the bacterial population proliferates.

But the most important cereal crops are not affected by agrobacterium and so other methods had to be found. Scientists say their relative success rates are still difficult to judge.

These include ballistic impregnation, also known as "bioballistics" or "biolistics," an unlikely-sounding projectile science developed and popularized during the 1980s and used for narrow-leafed plants such as grasses and grains.

A specially designed "gene gun" fires dozens of metal slivers like bullets at target cells. The tiny pellets, usually of tungsten or gold, are much smaller than the diameter of the target cell, and coated with genetic material.

While the shell cartridge is stopped in its tracks by a perforated metal plate, the metallic micro-missiles are able to penetrate into living cells where the genetic material is then carried to the nucleus to be integrated among the host genes.

Gene guns have helped transform monocot species such as corn and rice. Monocots, meaning monocotyledonae or plants with one cotyledon or seed leaf, comprise a quarter of all flowering plant types. Barley and wheat also derive from monocots.

"Biolistics became quite popular, while the other ways of directly introducing DNA were there all the time but didn't take off quite so much," said Prof. Peter Caligari at the Department of Agricultural Botany at Reading University, in southern England. "The monocots, for example the grasses and cereals, were much more difficult to transform using the popular agrobacterium system of transferring DNA than the dicots. But biolistics was a way of getting at the monocots."

Biolistics was still used moderately widely though probably still less than the agrobacterium approach, now developed to be more readily used with at least some of the monocots, he said.

Other transfer methods include creating pores or holes in the cell membrane to allow entry of the new genes. This can be achieved chemically, with sound waves or by using electric currents—a technique known as electroporation.

With strong electric pulses transmitted on a microsecond basis, minute pores are caused in the plant cells allowing the desired DNA to enter from a surrounding solution.

Sometimes, a genetic scientist will wish to "silence" a particular gene of an organism to prevent it from being expressed. Gene silencing was first used to create tomatoes with a higher solid content and longer shelf life by halting the natural evolution of an enzyme involved in the ripening process.

Viruses can also be a useful DNA vehicle as they are infectious particles to which a new gene can be added, carrying this gene into a recipient cell while infecting that cell.

And where the host cell is large enough, a fine-tipped glass needle may be enough to inject genetic material containing the new gene, although fewer cells can be treated in this way and the method is much more time-consuming than using a gene gun.

"There's always the thought that maybe a more efficient or more widely applicable single system is out there somewhere," said Reading University's Caligari. "And the more knowledge we get about things, the more possible that perhaps becomes." ***Reuters***

Take a break

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IF you feel that, to paraphrase the poet, "the world is too much with you" today, come take a walk with tour guides Kemlein and Johnson with offices in their German-American bookstore in the Escolta and see what Manila had to offer in 1908.

In the main, the guide states, "living in Manila is excellent and surprisingly cheap" although all fresh meat and practically all fruits and vegetables are brought in from some place else. Potatoes, onions, cabbages, celery and cauliflower are imported from Australia, Japan and China. Oysters and oranges come all the way from California, while lemons and grapes are imported from Spain. From the local markets you can source fish, chicken, tomatoes, game and local fruits and vegetables.

Manila has a botanical garden in the middle of the city, extending from Bagumbayan Drive, Plaza Lawton and Calle Arroceros. The guide says "it represents one of the most charming and noteworthy sites of Manila. During the 1898 War, it served as camping ground for General Aguinaldo's army." For a while it reverted back to swampland but the American regime improved it "with drives and walks and a bountiful blending of tropical flora, plants and trees." Monday evenings the Constabulary band plays Wagner, Strauss and Verdi.

Connected to the garden is a zoo "with a splendid collection of the wild animal specimens of the archipelago, besides a number of zoological rarities of foreign countries."

In case you need a hotel, recommended are: the Metropole at the foot of Sta. Cruz Bridge; Hotel de Francia on the corner of the Escolta and San Jacinto; Bay View Hotel at 29 San Jose, Ermita; Hotel Delmonico at 273 Calle del Palacio, Intramuros; New Oriente Hotel at Calle Real, Intramuros; Hotel Continental at 35 Plaza Goiti; Army & Navy Club on Calle Real, Malate. (Neither the Manila Hotel nor the future Army & Navy Club had as yet been built.) All these hotels serve Australian meat in their restaurants from their cold storage.

Of the churches within the Walled City, the guide gives special notice to the interior of San Ignacio designed by Felix Roxas on Calle Arzobispo with its "distinctly modern façade." Its interiors by sculptor Tampingco are "exquisite and gracefully finished. The ceilings wrought in beautifully tuned and carved native wood are gems of the highest artistic merit." The pulpit represents "the pride of the Jesuit fathers, the creators of this shrine of art and worship."

Still within Intramuros, the Ayuntamiento building, formerly the site of the Spanish colonial government, is worth a visit especially its Marble Hall, site of the first Philippine Assembly. Along its upper-story corridors are paintings on subjects of local history, among them works by Juan Luna.

The Pearl of the Orient offers many attractions according to Kemlein and Johnson. "A ride, or better still, a promenade through the native Chinese quarters will probably appeal most to newcomers and tourists. Along the sidewalks of Binondo one encounters tombstones of granite with Chinese inscriptions used for pavement." There are no Chinese temples but the cemetery in La Loma is worth a visit. The Japanese are of comparatively latecomers and their community is found on Calle Alix and neighboring streets.

Among the bridges are Puente de España, "one of the oldest structures within the Pearl of the Orient," with its eight stone arches, having been erected in 1630 by Gov. Niño de Tabora. Traffic, however, is causing congestion on the Escolta and the bridge so that more and more vehicles are being diverted to the Sta. Cruz Bridge, which is of steel and concrete and designed along "sober" lines.

Then there's the Suspension Bridge or the Puente Colgante with "evident signs of senile debility" due to the exploitation by its private owners "who cannot afford to invest large capital to keep it in perfect standard, for fear of becoming briefly deprived of their antediluvian toll privileges."

The Ayala Bridge has been replaced by a modern steel structure connecting the districts of Concepcion and San Miguel. There are two other spans: the Railroad Bridge connecting Sta. Mesa with Pandacan and a new viaduct crossing the Pasig at its junction with the Mariquina River. It also connects Fort McKinley (now Bonifacio) with the town of Pasig, the capital of Rizal Province.

Among some noteworthy monuments is the bronze sculpture of Legaspi and Urdaneta on the southeastern corner of the Walled City below the bastion of San Diego on a marble pedestal that "shows unusual artistic ability and sculptural merit." Then there is the plain obelisk raised in honor of Simon de Anda outside the walls of Fort Santiago facing the river on the extreme end of Malecon Drive. Within the walls is the monument to Carlos VI, on the park fronting the Ayuntamiento and the Cathedral as well as that of Padre Miguel de Benavidez, the founder of Sto. Tomas, on a small square facing the university building.

Outside the walls on the south bank of the Pasig is a tall column, crowned by a globe in memory of Ferdinand Magellan. Aside from these, there's a statue of founder Sebastian Vidal in the Botanical Gardens, a monumental fountain on the rotunda in Sampaloc in honor of Carriedo to whom Manila owes its water system, and opposite Malate Church is the bronze monument of Isabela II.

The Aglipayan irony

YOUNGBLOOD

Ryan Josef Calauor

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE PHILIPPINE Independent Church or the Aglipayan Church, to which I belong, used to baffle me with its many ironies. Unquestionably rich in terms of history and unfailingly visible in the realm of social activism, the Aglipayan Church has nonetheless become one of the poorest religious groups in our country. Any non-Aglipayan only has to look at the deplorable state of many PIC structures all over the country and, of course, in some cases their diminishing congregations, and he would conclude that the PIC, the most tangible remnant of the 1898 Revolution, alas, has hit rock-bottom.

A hundred years ago, this condition would have been utterly unthinkable. The cream of the turn-of-the-century Philippine society, led by President Emilio Aguinaldo, Apolinario Mabini, Isabelo de los Reyes and Bishop Gregorio Aglipay, risked wealth and life to establish this "purely Filipino" church (which meant basically that no Spanish friars would be allowed to mount the pulpit). It was the Dream Church of Aguinaldo's revolutionary government, a sanctuary where Filipino priests could officiate in various Philippine languages (and marry), where the Philippine flag would be displayed near the altar and the national anthem will be sung at the end of the Mass.

Unfortunately, as with all patriotic visions in this country, the Dream Church eventually was relegated to the backseat. Today, this position is manifested in the poor economic and political standing of the PIC in national affairs.

In our country, political power or influence remains the standard by which prestige is measured. And by this standard, the Aglipayan Church has lost much of its luster. It has close to zero representation in the judiciary, the legislature and the executive branch of the present government.

The reason is simple: There has never been an Aglipayan vote. Since the political clout of religious denominations ultimately depends on the ability of its leaders to deliver a solid vote, their leaders move heaven and earth to make this solid vote a reality during elections.

But for as long as I can remember, the PIC leadership has never pursued such a partisan campaign, notwithstanding the Aglipayan leaning toward liberation theology. This lack of political opportunism on the part of Aglipayan leaders seems to have diminished the influence of the church. As a result it has suffered a number of setbacks and disappointments that must have made our 1898 heroes turn in their graves.

In 1996, for instance, President Ramos asked Congress to change the name of Taft Avenue to Aglipay Avenue in honor of the PIC founder. The proposal died stillborn in Congress. This was followed by another recommendation making Aug. 3, the Aglipayan Foundation Day, a national working holiday. That, too, was killed unceremoniously. But the most stinging rebuff came when the National Centennial Commission excluded the PIC from the Grand Centennial Parade of 100 historical floats at the Quirino Grandstand on June 12, 1998. The NCC deemed Aguinaldo's Dream Church unfit and unworthy to be part of the national celebration. Its members desecrated the living symbol of that era in our history when patriotism was young, daring, pure and fiery.

The lack of political prominence of the Aglipayan has decimated its national constituency. I have always believed that churches should project themselves to people. Politics is one way of doing this. For many people who are awed by power and privilege, the more politically connected they perceive their church to be, the stronger their loyalty to their church. The exact opposite happens when members realize that their church has fallen out of favor with the powers-that-be. They hastily abandon their church and jump to a presumably more heavenly denomination.

Such mentality is obviously pathetic. Such people apparently base their decision on the question: How could God be kind to this church which can't even get a congressman to donate a ceiling fan, much less rename a city avenue after its founder? Spirituality brings many great things. Spirituality brings many grand things. Something is wrong when we fail to honor a spiritual leader.

The past two decades have seen the exodus of thousands of PIC members who went on to join more political, better-organized and better-funded church groups. This way of getting new members is forbidden by the by-laws of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. But some clever NCCP members, who have apparently benefited from the Aglipayan diaspora, have repeatedly turned a blind eye to this rule because, after all, they have been the winners—and the PIC the loser—in this inter-sect numbers game.

(I myself have been visiting other denominations for the past three years, in an effort to gain insight into their idea of worship and, thus, deepen my knowledge of the diversity of the Christian faith. My visits, however, have always been academic, non-political and temporary.)

To pious friends who derive much pleasure from hopping from one church to another, I say: There are no perfect churches, no sinless priests and no divine ministers. There can only be perfect faith, and it can be found in every church. Perfect faith is not achieved by switching churches; it can only be experienced by staying put, focusing, humbling oneself and reaching out to God in the most honest, earnest and personal terms.

In the history of the PIC, no *obispo maximo* (the supreme leader of the PIC) has ever issued a strict policy of adherence that would effectively address the problem of volatility in the PIC membership. Some fanatics have proposed a policy that would enforce allegiance and sanction anyone who would try to give up his PIC membership, or something close to it. In my younger years, I myself had seriously thought about this as the solution for the lack of loyalty in the PIC's ranks.

But then such a policy would contravene the human right to free religion. Besides, only a cultist would really adopt such a stringent measure, and the PIC is not a cult.

In retrospect, I have come to realize that the absence of an iron hand in the PIC is not a sign of weakness but of tolerance. Jesus Christ as leader was incredibly tolerant. Thus, this element of tolerance in the Aglipayan mission is not a liability but its apotheosis. Its democratic essence is its greatest strength.

Whenever I think of my dear Aglipayan Church, I cannot help but think of Philippine society as a whole. There are many parallels between them. More than a century after the 1898 Revolution, the Philippines has remained a Third World democracy with a largely Third World infrastructure. Many of its citizens are going abroad in search of a "better life." A century after its founding, the PIC is experiencing exactly the same things.

I do not know if St. Peter asks people to describe the church they were born to. But if by chance he would ask me when I am at heaven's gate, I will tell him mine was cool and I missed it. My church was cool because it resembled so much the society where I lived: it was a bastion of freedom, it taught me to love and see God in the poorest among the people and in the simplest of things; and it was never the favorite bailiwick of traditional politicians.

Ryan Josef Calauor, 25, grew up in the Aglipayan convent in Sibalom, Antique, and is a physical therapist by profession.

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PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Search for 'desaparecidos' continues

ALBERT Camus once said, "A great challenge in life is to look at the sordid face of reality and not turn away."

We recall these words today in remembrance of Redemptorist priest and human rights activist Fr. Rudy Romano. Sixteen years have passed since he was abducted by suspected military men in Cebu. He was never seen or heard from again.

Father Rudy's involuntary disappearance in 1985 was one of the thousands of cases of human rights violations, which proliferated during the era of martial law and continue up to the present. We remember Father Rudy and other *desaparecidos* as we mark our Sixth National Assembly in Cebu on Nov. 19-23.

The continuing phenomenon of involuntary disappearance in the country is indeed a persistent scourge. Our efforts toward forgiveness and national healing become a hollow quest unless justice is finally served to the victims of human rights violations and their families. So far, our efforts to put a stop to involuntary disappearances remain difficult. But we are making inroads, and we definitely will not give up.

So far, we have recovered in the past 16 years the tortured remains of 55 missing persons. We are searching for the whereabouts of 1,019 more.

We have also filed 14 cases against military authorities in Mindanao to find out if the justice system in the country indeed now favors the poor and the oppressed.

In our meeting with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang last Aug. 29, the eve of our commemoration of the International Day of the Disappeared, she said that her administration abhors involuntary disappearances as she promised to certify a bill in Congress recognizing involuntary disappearance as a "crime against humanity" and providing for appropriate measures to prohibit its practice and penalizing those who are engaged in such atrocity.

We also look forward to the realization of the commitment made by Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to help create a special court that will administer the cases of the *desaparecidos* and eventually give justice to them and their families.

We remember Father Rudy as we continue to await new information on the whereabouts of our missing loved ones. As we gather in Cebu, we will dedicate our general assembly to all the country's *desaparecidos*. Their memory will continue to be the fire that will light our path and strengthen our resolve to see our struggle to the end. They will not be forgotten until justice is achieved.—**MARY AILEEN D. BACALSO, co-chair, Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance, P.O. Box AC 546, Cubao, Quezon City**

Core issue in Freedom Ring contract

THIS is in reply to the letter of Rene A. V. Saguisag published last Nov. 3.

Saguisag wants it to appear that the award of the Freedom Ring contract to Asiakonstrukt was the decision solely of former National Centennial Commission Chair Salvador H. Laurel. The truth is that the award was made through a unanimous resolution of the Expocorp board of directors, Asiakonstrukt having submitted the lowest bid and the best design.

Whether existing laws and regulations on bidding and award of government projects are applicable to Expocorp, where the government has only a 45-percent equity (making it a private corporation), is the principal and sole issue in the petition for certiorari against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto that Laurel has filed with the Supreme Court.

It may interest Saguisag to know that while Desierto has concurred with his view that Expocorp was not a private corporation but a government-controlled corporation (the first and only time that the two are in agreement), the Office of the Special Prosecutor was not able to refute Laurel's argument that Expocorp was a private corporation. The Office of the Solicitor General which Desierto had earlier asked to represent him in the Supreme Court did not even file a comment on his behalf.

Furthermore, while Saguisag has issued several press statements and press releases, not to mention letters to the editors, praising his committee's work, he never mentioned the following:

1. All payments made by Expocorp to Asiakonstrukt were covered by surety bonds, and therefore Expocorp was adequately protected.

2. According to the report of the Saguisag Committee itself, as of September 1997, work accomplished on the Freedom Ring was 31.78 percent, while total payments made by Expocorp to Asiakonstrukt as of that date was P384.4 million or 33 percent of the agreed contract price. Thus, the ratio of work accomplishment to payment was almost 100 percent. AP Canlas, Expocorp's project development manager, even gave a higher ratio of work accomplishment of 35 percent for the same period.

The public should also know that the Saguisag Committee suppressed vital documents favorable to Laurel and resorted to strained interpretations of pertinent laws to suit the prejudgment that now deposed President Estrada had made as regards the Centennial exposition.

We do not want to telegraph our punches but let this be a fair warning to Saguisag that we have lots of surprises for him and the members of his committee when we start presenting our evidence in the damage suit that Laurel has filed against the five members of the Saguisag Committee.—**JOSE A. OLIVEROS, Laurel Law Offices, 15th Floor, The JMT Condominium, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City**

LETTERS

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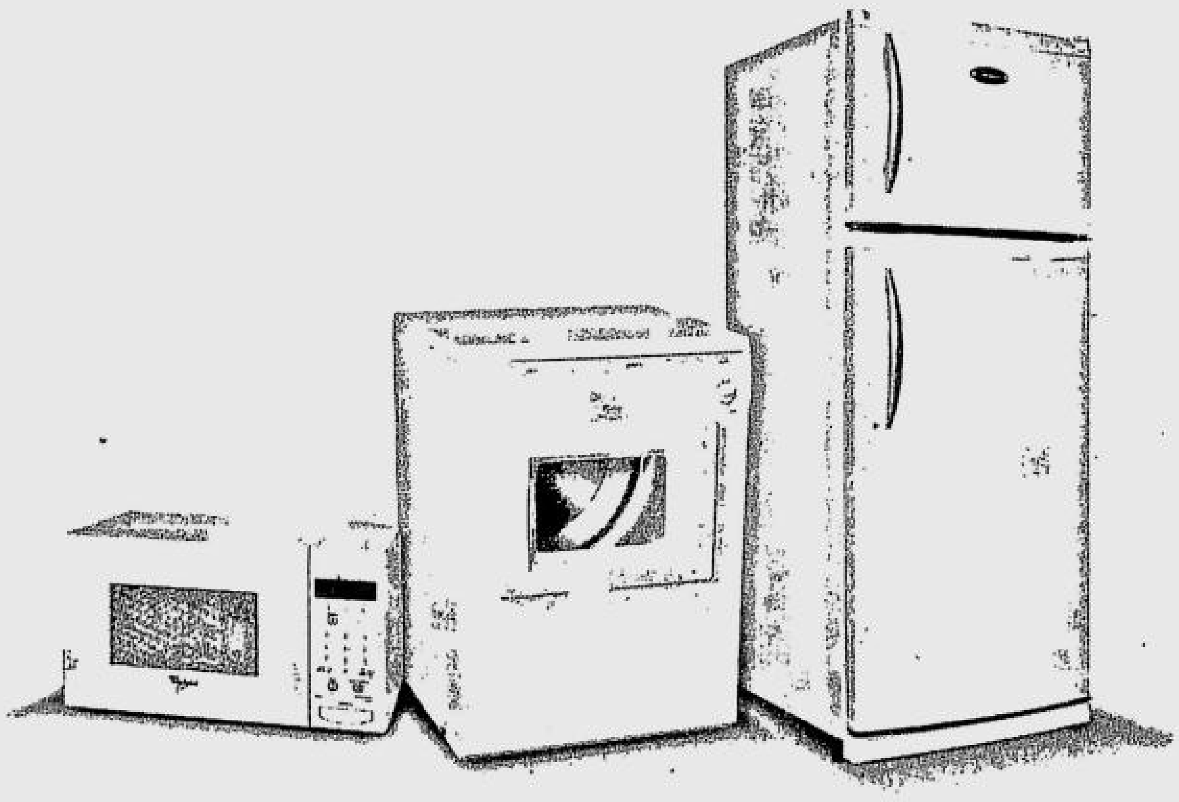

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Refrigerator	WRD 883	205 liters (7.5 cu. ft.) Top Mount Direct cool ref - Metallica series	P 14,950.00	P 4,983.33	P 2,491.66
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Romanticizing Pakistan's Musharraf

UP Prof. Natalia M.L.M. Morales painted a portrait of an incumbent national leader posing next to a burning fireplace in her commentary last Oct. 31, titled "Pakistan's Musharraf: Moderator of war vs terror."

Morales, a political science professor, portrayed Gen. Pervez Musharraf as a man of "foresight, temperance and faith." "These are the virtues that a terror-devastated world needs these days," she wrote admiringly. She considered his reluctance to cut diplomatic ties with the Taliban administration a plus factor in statesmanship.

Morales also described US President George W. Bush as "rather emotional in his order to attack al-Qaida terrorist training camps and Taliban base operations." While she depicted Musharraf as the consummate diplomat who "brings a sense of moderation in the last bastion of diplomacy in a situation where force and counterforce, attack and counterattack, and spiraling casualties regrettably become the order of international affairs."

Morales' commentary was as a romantic representation of Musharraf. Although it was not entirely unjustified, it lacked the additional luminescence of two compensating details, which could have depicted one other virtue of the general-president: his monetary resourcefulness in a time of war.

The compensating details, perhaps, not yet available to her at the time of writing, were spelled out by US State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher during a press conference held at the White House. As reported in the INQUIRER, these are: (1) Pakistan, the reluctant ally, "will get over $1 billion from the US government" and (2) Pakistan, the frontline nation in the US-led coalition against terrorism, will also receive "several billion dollars from international aid organizations."

Now these are not insignificant amounts of a few million dollars a week to feed "the millions of Afghan refugees who are already in Pakistan." These are not trifling support in the form of used military hardware "to quell the thousands of protesters of Pakistan's Muslims sympathetic with the Taliban and Bin Laden's cause." These are big pledges that are good as money in the bank. These are war booty collected before the war is over. Or shall we say war damage claims paid in advance?

In the light of these realities, we recall Osama bin Laden's accusation that Musharraf is "standing under the banner of the Cross while Muslims are being slaughtered," and we are tempted to ask if she has not misplaced her admiration in a general-president who plays solitaire with "one ace up" his sleeve.

Obviously she meant what she wrote in the commentary, and apparently tried to stick by what Samuel Johnson once wrote: "All history, so far as it is not supported by contemporary evidence, is romance." It's just that her admiration, misdirected and misplaced, breezed out of her classroom without a backward glance.—**RUDY SAWYER, Antipolo City**

No 'jueteng' in Nueva Vizcaya

SEN. Panfilo Lacson, in his recent privilege speech, must have been misinformed or simply careless when he cited Nueva Vizcaya as one of the provinces where there is rampant *jueteng* operations.

Both Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani and Bishop Ramon Villena will readily take exception to the allegations of Lacson. In fact, Bishop Villena gave the provincial police director, Romeo Hilomen, the "Diocesan Public Service Award" for his relentless effort in making Nueva Vizcaya *jueteng*-free.

It was therefore unfair and unkind for the senator to cite my father, Boy Tuzon, as the *jueteng* operator in this province since all the people of Nueva Vizcaya know that there has been no *jueteng* here since the start of the Macapagal administration.

If Lacson's information refers to operations during the Estrada administration, he is partly correct. But then what was being played was Bingo-2 ball, which was authorized by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.—**PATRICK TUZON, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya**

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AID WORKERS' ORDEAL, RESCUE

'Dramatic right until the end'

ISLAMABAD—Christian aid workers thought the Taliban had come to kill them when bearded gunmen burst into their Afghan jail and forced open the cell doors. Then, the men shouted "freedom," aid worker Georg Taubmann said Thursday.

Taubmann and three German colleagues—Margrit Stebnar, Kati Jelinek and Silke Duerrkopf—appeared before reporters after being flown out of the Afghanistan by a US military helicopter along with Americans Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry and Australians Diana Thomas and Peter Bunch.

Taubmann said the women had to burn their burqas so the American helicopter could find them in the darkness. "It was very dramatic right until the end," Taubmann said.

The eight employees of Shelter Now International had been jailed by the Taliban since early August for allegedly promoting Christianity in the staunchly Muslim country.

Late Monday night or early Tuesday, as the Taliban were evacuating Kabul, Taubmann said he and the other aid workers were taken from their cells, bundled into a vehicle and told they were being taken to another location for their safety.

They headed off in the direction of Kandahar, the Taliban stronghold in southern Afghanistan. "We were afraid that if we were taken to Kandahar, we would not be back alive," Taubmann said.

Early Tuesday morning, the vehicle stopped for the night near the town of Ghazni, 150 km southwest of Kabul.

"They put us all into a steel container," Taubmann said. "It was terribly cold. They wanted to lock the container and leave us in there until the morning. We had no blankets. We were freezing throughout the whole night."

The next morning, Taubmann said guards assured them they would be taken to a better facility, suggesting it might be a private home where they would be more comfortable.

Instead, they were driven to the worst of the five prisons in which they had been held since August—dark, stinking, ground floor cells with no toilets.

"We were told we were in Afghanistan, this was an Afghan jail, and you must be satisfied and keep your mouth shut," he said.

Soon they could hear strong explosions—presumably from American airstrikes—and the rattle of heavy gunfire, he said. "The building shook," he added. "People were running in panic."

"About 11 a.m. people came to the prison, there was shooting and they busted in the door," he said. "We thought the Taliban were coming to kill us."

Instead, the gunmen identified themselves as Northern Alliance troops. Taubmann said the gunmen were stunned to find foreigners held in the jail.

He said the Alliance troops took them to a secure location, through streets of the town jammed with people celebrating the Taliban's departure.

Taubmann said the road back to Kabul was too dangerous because of Taliban troops in the area. The local alliance commander sent a message through the Red Cross to the German Embassy in Islamabad informing them that the eight had been freed. The Germans contacted the US Embassy here which arranged a helicopter pickup, he added. *AP*

Lab deserted by al-Qaida shows chem'l weapons bid

KABUL—Members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network apparently made a hasty departure from their Kabul compound—leaving behind a makeshift laboratory, complete with foul-smelling liquids in dirty brown jars and scattered papers covered in chemical formulas.

The United States says Bin Laden has been attempting to get his hands on weapons of mass destruction, and documents littering the compound suggested al-Qaida may have been trying to develop chemical arms and other unconventional weapons at the site.

It was impossible to tell how far such efforts might have gone, but there were hints of the group's ambitions. One item was a booklet offering advice on how to survive a nuclear explosion.

In the United States, Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge confirmed that some documents containing material about how to make a nuclear device were found in an al-Qaida building in Kabul.

However, Ridge said the information from the house was "taken off the Internet some years ago" and could've been widely available to people other than the al-Qaida terrorists.

Ridge said the discovery of the documents is consistent with statements by Bin Laden that he would like to have a nuclear capacity.

"We have to be prepared for all eventualities including a nuclear threat," Ridge said.

The London newspaper The Times reported Thursday that designs for nuclear weapons and missiles were among the debris left behind in the house.

"There are descriptions of how the detonation of TNT compresses plutonium into a critical mass, sparking a chain reaction, and ultimately a thermonuclear reaction," The Times reported.

Room after room were filled with papers, formulas and maps, some partially burned, some with handwritten Arabic notations. There was a yellowed page from an old issue of Plane and Pilot magazine—a story titled, "A Flight to Remember."

Written in Arabic, German, Urdu and English, the notes give "designs for missiles, bombs and nuclear weapons," it said.

Last weekend, a Pakistani newspaper quoted Bin Laden as claiming that his organization had nuclear and chemical weapons. However, US officials have said that they had no information to suggest he has been successful in his attempt to acquire such weaponry. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, November 17, 2001
32nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9*
Gospel: *Lk 18:1-8*

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should pray continually and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor people. In the same town was a widow who kept coming to him, saying: 'Defend my rights against my opponent.' For a time he refused, but finally he thought: 'Even though I neither fear God nor care about people, this widow bothers me so much I will see that she gets justice; then she will stop coming and wearing me out.'"

And Jesus explained, "Listen to what the evil judge says. Will God not do justice for his chosen ones who cry to him day and night even if he delays in answering them? I tell you, he will speedily do them justice. Yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Commentary:

A widow approaches a faithless judge to vindicate her against her enemy. "To vindicate" is to revenge for an injury. For the New Testament, vengeance is God's prerogative alone. The widow is entrusting her case to the judge as her last hope on earth. The story has two endings. The first concludes with God's will to hear his faithful in their cry for vindication. The second conclusion is perhaps a link with the character of the judge. He is faithless and unconcerned. Likewise, the widow's enemy might have confirmed the injustice in social life. The lesson is twofold. Firstly, we should never take revenge. We should leave them to God. Secondly, we must remain faithful. If others are unjust, we must continue to do right.

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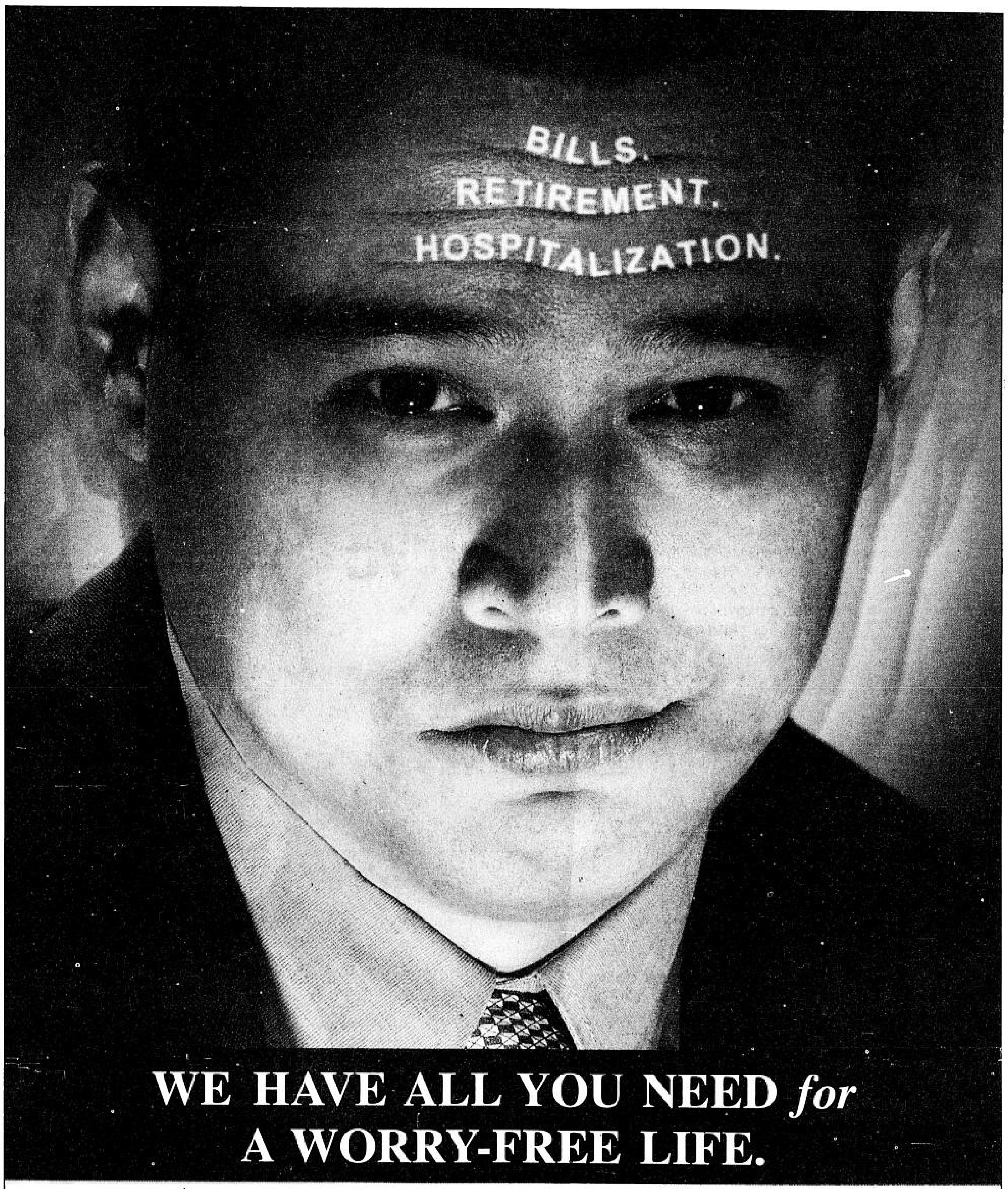

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UN-JOINED REUTERS

Jamuna (center left) and Ganga Shrestra, Nepali twin girls whose fused heads were separated in a record four-day Singapore operation last April, pose with their grandparents in this Oct. 17, handout photograph. The twins are due to leave Singapore for home on Sunday after spending more than a year with their family in the city state.

Doomed plane had 2 'wake encounters' before crashing

WASHINGTON—New analysis of data from the American Airlines Airbus crash in New York confirmed that the plane experienced turbulence from the wake of another plane on two occasions before it went down, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) officials said Thursday.

"The acceleration data is consistent with a wake encounter about 28 seconds before the end of the FDR (flight data recorder) data," and again at "about eight seconds before the end of the FDR data," NTSB chair Marion Blakey told a news conference.

The new data apparently confirms the "airframe rattling noises" that had already been detected during analysis of the cockpit voice recorder retrieved from the crash site where 265 people were killed, including five on the ground, in Queens on Monday.

Wake turbulence is caused by two cyclone-type spirals of air that trail from the wingtips of a jet, and is the main reason why takeoffs must be spaced at least two minutes apart.

A JAL 747 took off two minutes and 20 seconds before the doomed American Airlines plane, but the Airbus was one minute, 45 seconds behind the bigger jet at the time of the crash, the NTSB said Wednesday.

JAL's four-engine Jumbo Jet, weighing more than 300 tons, took a parallel flight path to that of the Airbus, at an altitude about 240 meters higher.

Investigators have also been seeking to determine why the plane's tailfin fell off before the crash, and Blakey said in response to a question that wake turbulence could have been the cause.

The tailfin—which is made of nonmetallic composite materials that are lighter than aluminum—was found intact, ripped cleanly from its six mountings, in Jamaica Bay, which separates John F. Kennedy international airport from the Rockaway section of Queens where the plane crashed.

Both engines also fell off in the fatal plunge.

The plane crashed less than three minutes after takeoff from JFK on a flight to Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic.

"The airplane altitudes did not change much in the first (wake) encounter," but during the second encounter there were significant sideways jolts known as lateral acceleration, Blakey said.

"This is a very significant lateral acceleration here we're talking about," she said.

The flight data then showed that the plane began heading about 10 degrees per second to the left, while the bank angle increased "through 25 degrees, left wing down, with the control wheel to the right," Blakey said, probably describing the pilot's last frantic attempts to get control over the aircraft.

Blakey announced that the Federal Aviation Administration and the French aviation investigatory body, BEA, were "working together on the issue of inspections," and were expected to issue a joint "airworthiness directive" in the next 24 hours.

She added that while the Federal Bureau of Investigation was still involved in the probe, experts have found no evidence that the crash was anything other than an accident.

The NTSB chair also announced that all human remains had been recovered from the crash site. *AFP*

Slay bid on S. Lanka president uncovered

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Sri Lankan police have uncovered a plot by Tamil Tiger rebels to assassinate President Chandrika Kumaratunga ahead of the Dec. 5 parliamentary elections, state-run Daily News reported Friday.

The alleged plot became known after the police arrested a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, a separatist group fighting to divide this small island nation along ethnic lines.

"Several documents recovered from an LTTE safe house revealed that the LTTE cadres were planning to assassinate the president," Daily News, which gets access to classified information, said.

There was, however, no independent confirmation of the report, and the office of the Inspector General of Police, Lucky Kodituwakku, declined telephone calls saying he was busy in a meeting.

Special team

The paper said after getting the information from the arrested rebel, police raided hide-outs of the guerrillas in the capital Colombo, its suburbs and the eastern town of Batticaloa.

At the hide-outs police recovered detailed sketch maps of Kumaratunga's home and a conference center in Colombo which she frequently visits.

The paper said that a special team from Sri Lanka's Criminal Investigation Department, similar to the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States, left for London Thursday to obtain assistance from Interpol and to get DNA tests done of the arrested rebel. The paper did not say why the DNA test was needed.

During the raids, police also recovered two explosive-laden suicide jackets, 35 cyanide capsules, a 9mm pistol with a silencer, hand grenades, explosives, forged identification cards and cellular phone accessories.

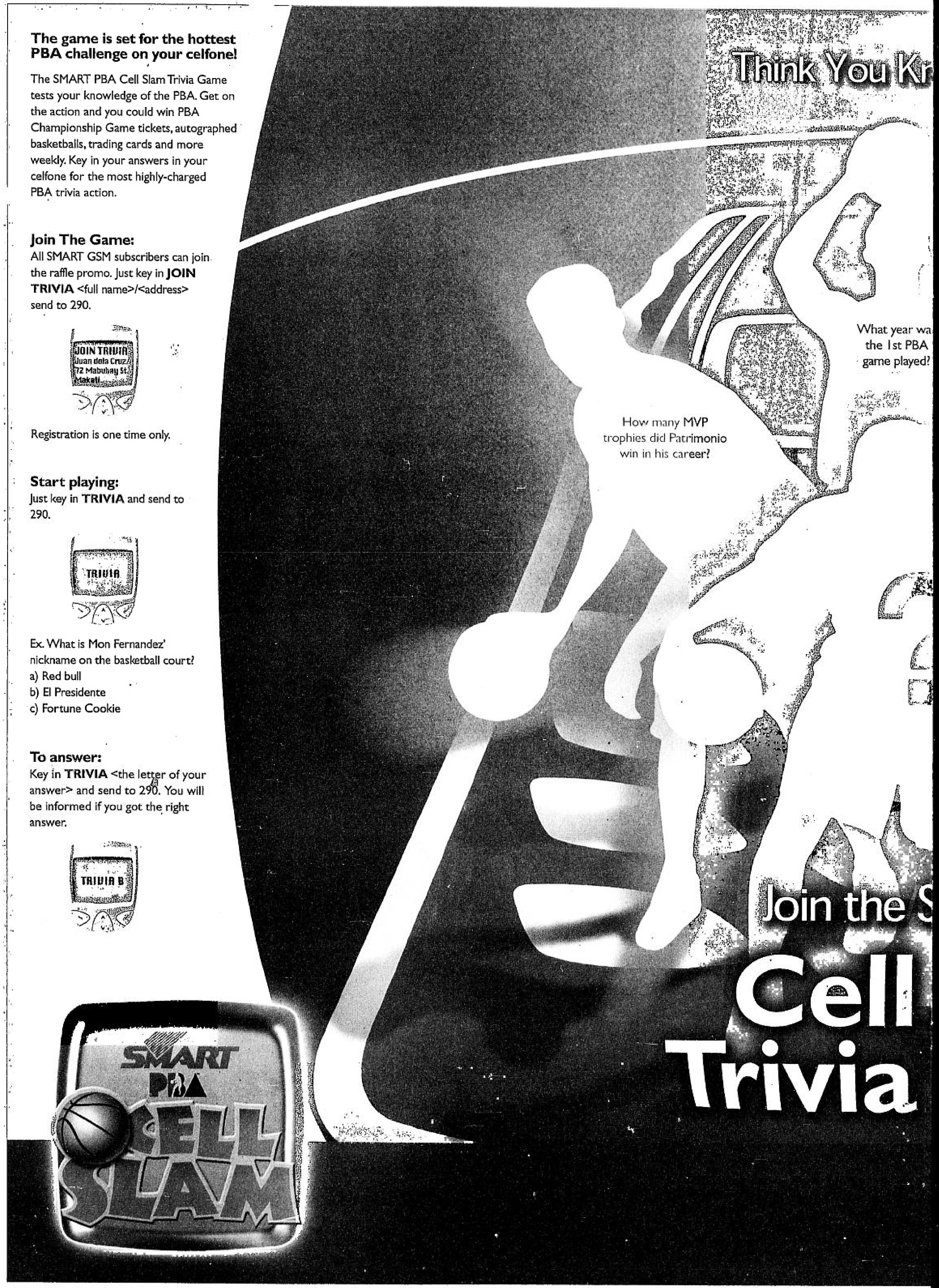
The rebels often use their suicide cadres, known as Black Tigers, to kill opponents. The rebels are also required to hang around their neck a cyanide capsule to avoid being arrested alive.

"Three communication centers which were used by the LTTE cadres for the attack were also traced by the CID," Daily News said.

In December 1999, Kumaratunga was blinded in her right eye in an assassination attempt by a suicide bomber. The blast killed 25 people and wounded more than 100 at an election rally. The attack was blamed on the Tamil Tiger rebels.

A separatist war since 1983 has left more than 64,000 people dead in Sri Lanka, a small island country off India's southern coast.

The rebels say the Tamil minority can only prosper away from domination by the Sinhalese, who make up 14 million of the country's 18.6 million people. Tamils are 3.2 million. *AP*



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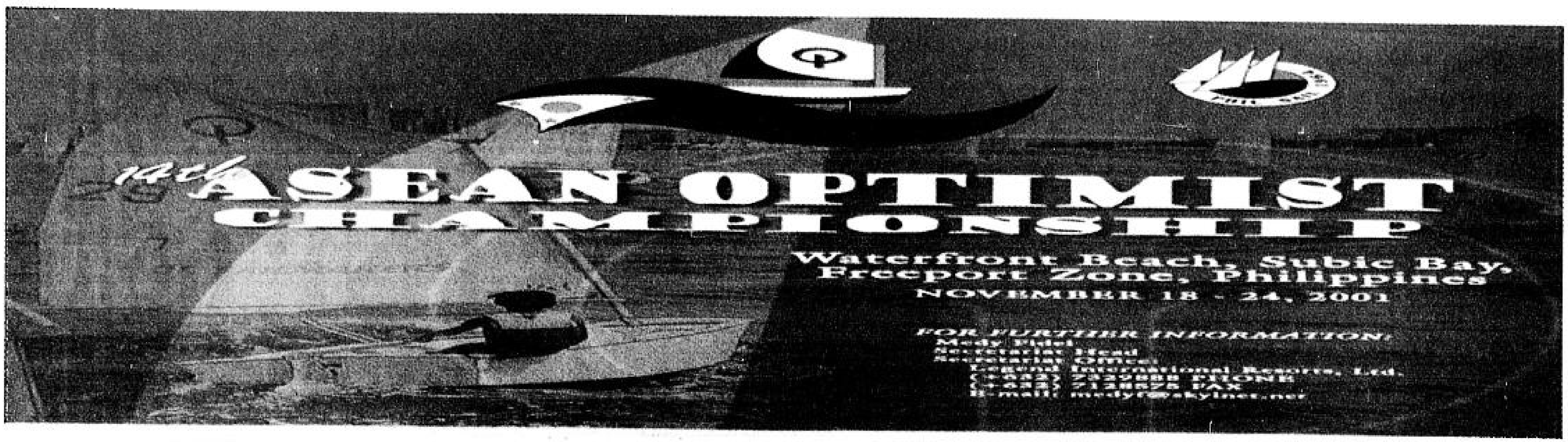
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In-vitro baby born from sperm cleared of HIV

TOKYO—A Japanese woman has given birth to an infection-free baby after the HIV virus was removed from her husband's sperm before the in-vitro fertilization process, a doctor said Friday.

The birth of the healthy boy, who was born in late October to a woman in her 30s, is a world first for in-vitro fertilization using sperm stripped of the HIV virus, according to the doctor.

"Both the baby and the mother were confirmed (HIV) infection-free," said Hideji Hanabusa, a doctor at Ogikubo hospital in Tokyo, who performed the revolutionary procedure with doctors from Niigata University Faculty of Medicine, north of Tokyo.

"It was the first case ever in the world where the HIV virus had been eradicated 100 percent, and just sperm was extracted for in-vitro fertilization," Hanabusa said.

The baby's father, who is also in his 30s, became infected with the HIV virus, which can cause AIDS, after receiving contaminated blood.

"It had been very difficult to remove all the HIV virus up till now because some HIV virus tend to attach to sperm," he said. "But we developed a new method that will separate the virus from sperm by using a special solution."

According to the doctor, the woman's egg was first fertilized outside her body using HIV-cleared sperm, and then transplanted back into her womb and brought to term.

"Other couples are now waiting for this treatment in December and January," he said. "I hope that with this technology, more and more HIV-positive people can have a baby safely."

The medical team is to report on the case to the Japan AIDS Society, which will hold a regular conference in Tokyo late November.

Last month, another Japanese medical team said a woman in her 20s gave birth after being artificially inseminated with sperm from her HIV-positive husband, with both mother and child confirmed infection-free.

It was the first successful birth using HIV-infected sperm in Japan, the doctors said, although similar cases were previously reported in Italy and in Spain.

The Japanese health ministry has had reports of 7,680 full-blown AIDS or HIV-positive patients, including 1,432 infected through contaminated blood products, as of June 24. At least 1,225 people have died of the disease.

Many hemophiliacs were infected with the HIV virus between the late 1970s and mid-1980s after receiving transfusions of contaminated blood products. *AFP*

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

DILG orders PNP head to sack 'jueteng' cops

LOCAL Governments Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday ordered Philippine National Police Director Leandro Mendoza to dismiss or impose heavy penalties on police officials who fail to stop illegal gambling in their areas.

He also called on Congress to pass a law to penalize local officials who fail to curb illegal gambling.

He said he will call a meeting of leaders of the leagues of local government officials to remind them that they have a duty to eradicate illegal gambling under Republic Act 8551.

Failure to perform this duty, said Lina, means sanctions for the local officials.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson Thursday was reported to have said that the leadership of the PNP "need not look for evidence of illegal gambling operations in Luzon and *payola* being paid (to) ranking police officers since the proof they are looking for is right inside Camp Crame."

Lina said "definitely investigations will have to be conducted and the Senate I think will investigate this."

The Senate investigation is expected to result in the crafting of legislation to curb illegal gambling, while findings of guilt will be referred to the Ombudsman or to prosecutors for the filing of cases against the erring police officers, said Lina.

Separate probe

He added that aside from the Senate investigation, the PNP is expected to conduct its own inquiry.

But Lina also admitted that there has to be a different approach to the problem of illegal gambling.

He said Congress should review Presidential Decree 1602 of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos that imposes very light penalties for people engaged in illegal gambling.

Under the Marcos decree, gambling collectors are fined P400 to P2,000 and face jail terms of two to four years.

Gambling financiers face fines of P6,000 or imprisonment of four to six years.

Lina said the penalties are too light and the prison terms are subject to probation.

Illegal gambling is a very lucrative business enterprise and gambling lords, who share their profit with some local officials who cannot resist getting their shares, are just laughing at efforts to stop illegal gambling, said Lina.

If Congress wants to help eradicate illegal gambling it should enact a law that will increase the penalties and bail bond for gambling offenders.

Hurt lords

Lina said this should hurt gambling lords, Lina said.

Because gambling lords earn millions of pesos, some of them become politicians and are elected into office, he said.

Congress should define the responsibilities, liabilities and penalties of local officials who fail to stop illegal gambling in their jurisdiction.

Lina also said the PNP is finishing its investigation of Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop and other police officials who were tagged in the Senate investigation as allegedly engaged in crimes that range from murder, kidnapping and drug trafficking.

Lina also claimed that the police have stepped up their campaign against illegal drugs.

He said the Philippines also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the People's Republic of China against the trafficking of illegal drugs.

This understanding would allow joint investigations and sharing of information between the two countries.

Most of the drugs confiscated in the country come from China, he said.

Amendments

Congress is also putting the finishing touches of amendments of the Dangerous Drugs Act.

The amendment will make possession of 15 grams of shabu a non-bailable offense.

The former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines expressed dismay over the patronage of Pangasinenses of jueteng despite repeated calls not to support the illegal numbers game.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Archdiocese of Dagupan-Lingayen said he was "dismayed but I have to accept that our calls to do away with gambling do not seem to have the effect that we wanted."

The diocese has been circulating letters to be read during Mass in the province, telling people to refrain from betting on jueteng. The letters also talked of the evils of gambling.

Rallies against jueteng, illegal drugs and prostitution were also held in different towns of Pangasinan.

"I am disappointed. As far as I'm concerned, we are not successful in pleading (with the people) but we don't have the authority or the means to stop the illegal numbers game. Ours is only moral suasion," Cruz, the immediate past president of the CBCP, said.

Bettors

He said initial results of the third survey the Church conducted in Central Pangasinan on jueteng showed that the number of bettors has increased.

The third survey was started before Lacson's privilege speech where he disclosed the identities of police officers allegedly receiving protection money from jueteng operators.

"Based on the initial results, there are places where jueteng (operations) lessened but there are places where operations got worse. By and large, the operations have increased," Cruz lamented.

He said he did not believe police were helpless against illegal gambling "because it has been established that in some places, there is no jueteng."

"If the police, the government and the citizenry are united, bringing an end to jueteng is not an impossible dream. It all depends on what the leadership in a place wants," he said.

Cruz said while it was hard to disregard Lacson's exposé, "the whole truth must still be proven."

"It's just a privilege speech covered by immunity from suit (so) he must substantiate his findings. While I'm not taking it as a gospel truth, it is something to ponder about because here in central Pangasinan, our survey showed that jueteng indeed is flourishing," Cruz said. ***Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Pampanga folk seek audience with GMA

ANGELES CITY—After failing to have an audience with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang last Monday to discuss the development of the airport here, several Kapampangan groups are now seeking a dialogue with her in their home province.

The groups, which have been lobbying for the full operation of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at nearby Clark Field, include the Move Clark Now, Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement, Ing Makababaing Aksyun and Kapisanan para sa Kagalingan ng Kababaihan sa Angeles.

Some 1,500 members of the four organizations participated in a "pro-Clark airport" caravan and rally to Malacañang to ask Ms Macapagal to fully operate the DMIA as the country's premiere international airport within five years.

They arranged the meeting with her through Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo, the President's eldest son, and other Palace insiders.

However, the President failed to meet the ralliers because she flew to Jakarta for a state visit to Indonesia.

The protesters tried to march to Malacañang but members of the Presidential Security Group blocked them at the Don Chino Roces Bridge. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

8TH PHILIPPINE DIABETES CONGRESS

November 18, 2001
MANDALUYONG SPORTS COMPLEX
Mandaluyong City Hall Compound, Maysilo, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City

"THEME: "ANG MGA DIYABETIKO BUKAS AY MAGMUMULA SA MGA KABATAAN NGAYON"

MESSAGES

It is my distinct pleasure to convey my warmest felicitations to the Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics as you hold your 8th Philippine Diabetes Congress.

The laudable efforts of the Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics through the years have successfully spawned a healthier society for our people. Your organization has consistently stood at the forefront of improving the diagnosis and management of diabetes and has substantially contributed towards the continued health improvement of millions of Filipinos.

This year's congress manifests your organization's undying commitment in updating member clinics of innovative techniques to effectively address the problem of diabetes so that more of our countrymen's lives can be uplifted. As this dreaded disease continues to affect millions of our countrymen's lives, I am happy to note your efforts in contributing towards a healthier and productive Filipino citizenry.

Our administration recognizes the vital role of medical organizations like the Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics in safeguarding the health of our people. We stand to prosper as a people and as a country if every Filipino is given easy access to quality health care. I therefore enjoin your organization to help in this noble objective so that the task of giving more opportunities to our people can be realized.

I wish this congress every possible success and urge your members to contribute to our goal of producing more healthy and productive Filipinos.

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

GMArroyo

Congratulations and warm greetings to the Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics for the conduct of the 8th Philippine Diabetes Congress.

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of death and morbidity in our country today. To curb the spread of this lifestyle disease, a solid partnership between health care providers and patients must exist. In the same way, all other sectors and stakeholders must lend their support to enable a meaningful change that will bring about the necessary mechanisms for the effective control and prevention of diabetes.

This gathering is the embodiment of that principle. By coming together yearly, and devoting this day to know more about diabetes, you are showing how true partnerships works. Let me tell you that other groups are looking into your model, especially the diabetic clubs as they attempt to emulate your example in their quest to control other disease conditions.

The Department of Health welcomes this kind of partnership so that hand in hand, we can reverse the tide towards the control and prevention of diabetes.

Today, let us work to reach not only those who are diabetics, but let us reach those who are at risk of the disease.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., M.Sc.
Secretary of Health

PROGRAMME

7:00 A.M.	- ALAY LAKAD	ATI-ATIHAN
8:00	- PAMBANSANG AWIT	PFIZER BAND
8:15	- INVOCATION	ATTY. RAFAEL FRANCISCO
8:20	- Presentation of Consortium Members & Colors	DR. RICARDO E. FERNANDO DR. ARACELI A. PANELO PFIZER BAND
8:35	- Welcome Address	MAYOR BEN HUR ABALOS
8:45	- Tribute to SEN. NEPTALI GONZALES SR.	DR. RICARDO FERNANDO
9:05	- "THE DIABETICS OF TOMORROW WILL COME FROM THE CHILDREN OF TODAY"	
9:30	- Introduction of the GUEST SPEAKER	MR. DODI LINAO
9:35	- Address by the GUEST SPEAKER	SEC. RAUL ROCO
9:55	- Reactions from GUEST PRINCIPALS Mrs. Flora S. Calma Dr. Josefina L. Atog Dr. Rosario M. Jocson Mrs. Fe C. Padecio	MS. TESS GUTIERREZ
10:25	- Presentation of the "BEST DIABETES CLINIC OF THE YEAR"	MR. PHILIP MOLHANT
10:35	- Introduction of the GUEST SPEAKER	
10:40	- Address by the GUEST SPEAKER	USEC. ANTONIO S. LOPEZ
11:00	- Introduction of the GUEST SPEAKER	
11:05	- Address by the GUEST SPEAKER	SEC. MANUEL M. DAYRIT
11:25	- Philippine Institute of Traditional & Alternative Health Care Cooking demo on Ampalaya Concoction	DR. ALFONSO LAGAYA
12:00	- Renewal Pact of Unity	
12:20	- Closing Remarks	DR. ARACELI A. PANELO
LUNCH		
FUN TIME		
1:00	- GROUP CONTESTS: CHEERING, SINGING and DANCING	
5:00	- Announcement of winners	

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CONSORTIUM OF GOVERNMENT DIABETES CLINICS

By: Araceli A. Panelo, MD,MS

The Consortium of Government Diabetes Clinics is the fruit of a desire, which was nurtured in the heart of Dr. Ma. Teresa Plata Que, an endocrinology consultant at the East Avenue Medical Center and National Kidney Institute, who wanted to see cooperation and coordination among the various diabetes clinics in the different government hospitals. With the encouragement and help of Mr. Adi Sison, at that time product specialist of Novo Nordisk, who took pains to invite the different hospitals concerned, the organizational meeting was held at the Sulo Hotel, March 12, 1992. Friends from Boehringer Mannheim Company also helped with this activity.

At the meeting, lecture on "Setting up a Diabetic Clinic in the Government Hospital Setting" was given by Dr. Que followed by reactions from Dr. Honolina Gomez and Dr. Araceli Panelo, who were coordinating successful diabetes clinics at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center and E. Rodriguez Medical Center respectively. The first meeting was attended by representatives from AFP Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Medical Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Mandaluyong Medical Center, National Kidney Institute, Philippine Heart Center, Ospital ng Makati, Quezon City General Hospital, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, Rizal Medical Center, San Lazaro Hospital, Tondo General Hospital and Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Everyone agreed to continue meeting on a quarterly basis for information dissemination and sharing of experiences and resources. When it was San Lazaro Hospital's turn to host the meeting on May 1990, the members agreed to formalize the organization. Dr. Virgilio Gonzales was elected the first president. The other officers were Dr. Araceli Panelo, Dr. Ma. Teresa Plata Que, Dr. Cirena Cabanban and Mrs. Estrella Dysangco. Dr. Ricardo E. Fernando was designated adviser.

The Consortium has continued to flourish with the establishment of full-fledged diabetes clinics among the member hospitals with services ranging from treatment, diabetes education, coordination of lay support groups, training of lay educators and complications and risk assessment. It is hoped that eventually cooperation will extend to the formulation of a common protocol for optimal diabetes care to patients and epidemiological database through the establishment of a multi center diabetes registry. With the setting up of Hospitals as Center for Wellness Program by the Department of Health, managed by Dr. Ruben Flores, Director, E. Rodriguez Medical Center, the Consortium became a model for the 10 other areas of preventive and promotive medicine.

The Consortium enjoys the full backing of all its members and the UE Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. We believe in its vision of attaining its objectives through oneness. So for its major project, the first Philippine Diabetes Congress was launched wherein expectedly the theme was "Matamis na Pagkakaisa" translated to Unity for the Common Good of the Filipino Diabetics. It was in this congress where Dr. Juan Flavier, the Secretary of Health announced the Diabetes Control Program of the Department of Health. It was also in this congress where the beginnings of the Diabetes Advisory Council of the Department of Health were formed. On September 30, 1997, President Ramos inducted into office the new members of the National Diabetes Commission. They were given the mandate to create and monitor the National Diabetes Prevention and Control Program.

The Commissioners believed that the best approach to lick the problem of diabetes is through its prevention. And to do this, they have set up programs for mass information campaign. In response to this, the organizing committee of the Consortium has decided to adapt "Ang mga Diyabetiko Bukas ay Magmumula sa mga Kabataan Ngayon" as the theme of the 8th Philippine Diabetes Congress on November 18, 2001.

On diabetes: What is insulin resistance?

In diabetes, insulin is a primary factor. Insulin is a hormone used by the body to break down glucose which comes from the carbohydrates and sugar that we eat. But when the body – particularly the pancreas – fails to produce enough insulin to regulate sugar in the blood or when it uses the hormone insufficiently, diabetes then occurs.

There are two types of diabetes: Type 1 and Type 2. Type 2 diabetes is normally labeled as adult diabetes. It is the more common form of this chronic disease. People with pre-diabetic conditions are known in medical circles as having impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) – the forerunner to full-blown diabetes.

Patients with IGT have higher glucose level than the normal. This high rate of glucose thus increases their likelihood of developing diabetes. For the two types, there are two factors that appear to be relevant: insulin resistance and insulin deficiency. Ongoing medical debates prove though, that insulin resistance is the first factor towards the development of diabetes.

Insulin resistance defined

Insulin resistance is the failure of the target tissues in the body, including muscle, fat and liver tissues, to respond correctly to insulin in the blood. Glucose then builds up in the blood and eventually overflows into the kidney and passes out of the body through the urine. When this happens, the body's cells become undernourished for energy. Also, the high glucose levels can damage other parts of the body like the nerves, eyes, kidneys, heart and blood vessels.

As blood glucose levels remain high, the pancreas continue to be stimulated and insulin levels steadily rise. Due to this effect, people with insulin resistance usually have high levels of insulin in their blood.

After some time, insulin secretion falls below the minimum needed to maintain normal blood glucose levels. Glucose levels increase until they reach the definition of Type 2 diabetes. At this stage, affected patients exhibit signs of central obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia and coronary heart disease. In the past, patients with Type 2 diabetes were known as non-insulin dependent diabetics.

Symptoms

Type 2 diabetes usually begins gradually and progresses slowly. Symptoms may not be visible for years, even decades. These include excessive thirst, increase in urination, fatigue, blurred vision, subtle weight loss and genital infections.

Women with diabetes normally experience vaginal yeast infections. Fungal infections may also occur under the breasts or in the groin. Severe gum problems, worsening vision, itching, impotence, unusual tingling or burning sensations in the extremities and slow healing of sores may also be signs of Type 2 diabetes. Aside from these, there are also certain factors in making one susceptible to Type 2 diabetes such as age, obesity, smoking, family history and ethnicity.

Breakthrough drug

There is now hope for Type 2 diabetics. *Rosiglitazone Avandia* is a new insulin-sensitizing agent developed by GlaxoSmithKline, and is approved by the US Federal Drug Authority (FDA). In clinical trials, this drug lowers patients' blood sugar levels safely.

According to a medical paper of the Newcastle University in Northern England by Dr. Stuart Bennett and colleagues, which was presented during the European Association for the Study of Diabetes Congress, "*Rosiglitazone* provides significant improvements to insulin resistance, blood pressure and IGT." *Rosiglitazone* belongs to a new class of anti-diabetes drugs called thiazolidinediones (TZDs) or glitazones. They target insulin resistance in people with Type 2 diabetes.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	HI 22° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 20°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 22°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 22°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyeso, PDI Research/11/17/01

Airport critics urged to play clean

THE PROTECT Filipino Movement (Pro-Fil), a non-government organization, said yesterday opponents of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3 based in Pampanga should prod officials of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) to design a development plan for the airport instead of wasting time criticizing the Naia-3.

"The two airports can co-exist in Luzon, so why oppose Naia 3 when its closure will not mean the DMIA will soar to heights of success?" said Virgilio Ilagan, executive director of Pro-Fil, in a statement.

Ilagan suggested that if DMIA officials apply for a development program with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) and it is disapproved for flimsy reasons, then the people of Pampanga would have a reason to protest.

"But this has not happened yet. In fact, the DOTC and President Macapagal-Arroyo herself, and even the Philippine International Terminals Co. (Piatco) have aired assurances on various occasions that the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport will be allowed to operate and achieve its full potential," said Ilagan.

Promotion

The Pro-Fil officer said that instead of spending millions of pesos to smear the name of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez in newspapers, the Pampanga protesters better use the money to promote the Clark Economic Zone and its international airport.

The Protect Filipino Movement earlier urged various parties who oppose the construction and operation of the Naia Terminal 3 to bring their case to the proper courts instead of the streets.

"These are counterproductive moves by people working for vested interests of big businessmen who will directly benefit should Naia Terminal 3 be stalled," said Ilagan.

He added that the protest moves have not achieved anything except public indignation.

Go slow

In another statement, Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid was quoted as asking his constituents to go slow on protests against the Naia—3.

"We should take the cue from (the) President and not be rushed into supporting street demonstrations that can only lead to a perception that we have a muddled business situation in the country," the statement quoted Lapid as saying.

Lapid said the President has assured the full development of the DMIA and has approved a plan to spend P1.3 billion for the construction of a passenger terminal in the Clark airport.

Protesters accused the government of entering into a contract with Piatco that is disadvantageous to the government.

"The President has explained that this provision in the Piatco contract is a done deal and will be honored by her administration," Lapid was quoted as saying.

"If this is her stand, let us support the President. She is the leader of the nation and she knows what is best for the Kapampangans, she being one of us," said the governor.

He added that he supports the view of DMIA General Manager Bienvenido Mangga of the DMIA that what the Clark airport needs is an effective and sustained marketing effort to attract international airlines.

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GLS M/T	685,000		49,721	34,406	27,435	19,699	15,880	14,381
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			36 mos.	**48 mos.**	**60 mos.**
			10,673	8,604	7,792

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Model	SRP	D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
MX	795,000	150,000	57,764	39,972	31,873	22,886	18,448	16,708

*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3460, Series of 2001.

Priests say colleague's, mayor's slay linked

By Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MABITAC, Laguna—Fellow priests expressed doubts over police findings that the Thursday killing of Catholic priest Arsenio Plata Jr. was motivated by plain robbery.

They claimed that the murder could be the result of his vocal condemnation of the murder of Mabitac Mayor Bernardo Sayarot, which the slain priest believed could have been politically motivated.

"I strongly condemn the senseless murder of Father Jun who could have been killed by people whose masterminds he had angered due to his previous pronouncements condemning the killing of Mayor Sayarot," fellow priest and cousin Fr. Jose Nonel Plata said. Another priest, who requested anonymity, said hired assassins who disguised as church robbers could have killed the priest. The victim had previously been vocal in his denunciation of the murder of Sayarot, an active member of the Knights of Columbus in the parish, he said.

Plata had said the New People's Army could not have killed Sarayot.

He said the killers and their masterminds could be Sarayot's mortal rivals in politics.

The NPA's Melito Glor Command in Southern Tagalog had corroborated the priest's doubts by declaring that they did not have anything to do with Sayarot's death.

The two detained suspects in the killing of the mayor, his driver and a police traffic officer have also admitted they were not NPA members but hired killers contracted to assassinate the mayor. Norberto Tubaña, municipal administrator of Sayarot, however, countered the priests claim. He said there was no indication that Plata's killing has any connection to the former mayor's death because the police found that the three detained suspects are known as notorious church robbers, based on their previous records. The suspects' identities have yet to be divulged by the police who could not be reached as of late yesterday afternoon.

Fr. Jose Plata said some witnesses' accounts showed that the slain priest was watching TV inside his quarters about 2 p.m. Thursday, when he heard several individuals outside shouting "robbers, robbers."

Plata said his cousin, in response, rushed outside the convent to see what was happening.

But all of a sudden, three knife-wielding men attacked the priest, stabbing him several times—including one that pierced his heart.

The victim was declared dead on arrival at the nearby Pakil town hospital. His body was autopsied in Tanay, Rizal.

Judge junks murder case against mayor

SANTIAGO CITY—A judge here on Thursday dismissed the double murder charges filed against Mayor Jose Miranda and four of his co-accused for lack of evidence.

Judge Anastacio Anghad of the regional trial court here said the evidence filed by the prosecution was insufficient to prove the guilt of Miranda and his co-accused in the 1996 murder of Elezer Tuliao and Vicente Bauzon.

Also acquitted with Miranda, who was charged as the supposed mastermind of the murder, were SPO3 Alberto Dalmacio, PO3 Romeo Ocon, Boyet de la Cruz and a certain Amado.

"The basis of acquittal of this case is reasonable doubt, which simply means that the evidence of the prosecution was not sufficient to sustain and prove the alleged guilt of the appellants . . . beyond reasonable doubt," Anghad said.

He said an acquittal based on reasonable doubt would prosper even though the appellants' innocence may be doubted.

"A criminal conviction rests on the strength of the evidence of the prosecution and not on the weakness of the evidence of the defense," he said.

Virgilio Tuliao, a former jueteng table manager and father of Tuliao, expressed disgust over Anghad's decision. He said they would file a motion for reconsideration of the decision.

"We believe that justice will prevail later. We are not losing hope. I will consult my lawyer on the best ways (to deal with this problem)," Tuliao said.

The Inquirer called Miranda's office for his reaction but his staff said he was in Manila.

City Administrator Joel Miranda, the mayor's son, expressed relief after learning of his father's acquittal. "We will be at peace now because we have finally attained justice," he said.

Anghad said the prosecution did not present additional evidence to bolster claims that Miranda allegedly planned the murder.

He said he gave former Prosecutor Leo Reyes "enough time" but Reyes failed to present new evidence.

Reyes, who was recently appointed judge of the regional trial court in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, reportedly failed to ask for extension for the filing of new evidence and ignored the court summons.

Anghad is facing an administrative complaint before the Supreme Court due to his earlier order lifting the two arrest warrants issued against Miranda. ***Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Gov's victory questioned

MARAWI CITY—Lanao del Sur Gov. Mamintal Adiong was unseated by the Commission on Elections on Nov. 9 after dubious election returns were discovered in at least two towns, Commissioner Resurrection Borra said yesterday.

However, Borra said the decision of the Comelec 2nd division declaring Amerodin Sarangani as winner in the May elections did not automatically compel Adiong to step down.

"It was not yet final and Adiong could always question the decision. Until it is resolved with finality, he could not be compelled to step down," Borra said.

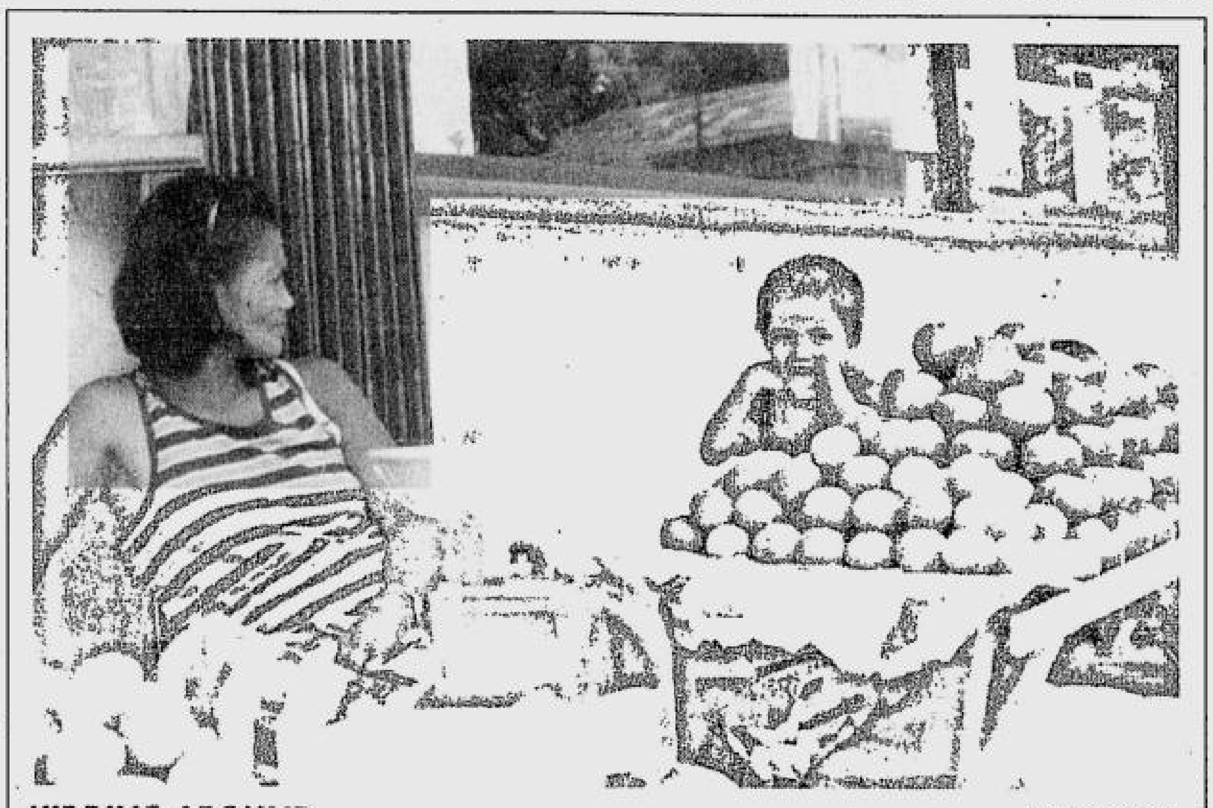
The board of canvassers questioned the proclamation of Adiong saying there was massive irregularity in the conduct of the elections in the province.

The Comelec 2nd division, during a re-examination of returns from Bubong and Wao towns, said it found that there were indeed indications of irregularities.

In Wao town, according to Borra, the certificate of canvass and other forms were mere photocopies.

"There was a question on the authenticity of the canvass form while in Bubong, there was a question of falsification of canvass," he said.

Because of these, Borra said the 2nd division ordered the Lanao del Sur board of canvassers to reconvene and exclude the questionable returns. ***Butch Enerio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



KIDDING AROUND MELVIN GASCON

A woman dutifully watches her son make faces in a fruit stall in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

ARMY REPORT

Firms paying taxes to NPA rebels

DAVAO CITY—The military here claimed that the four-building complex housing relay stations of the multinational company Dole Philippines and three of the country's major telecommunication firms was burned due to the firms' failure to pay revolutionary taxes to the New People's Army.

Col. Felipe Berroya, chief of the Army's 701st Brigade, said the companies were religiously paying the rebels P100,000 monthly since 1996.

The firms failed to pay in the past three months, Berroya said.

Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga, who was replaced by Berroya as 701st Brigade chief, had advised the telecom firms to stop paying the NPA and instead set up a direct telecom system with the brigade headquarters so soldiers could react immediately in case the rebels attack the relay stations.

But the firms ignored the Army's request so the soldiers failed to respond quickly to Monday night's attack, Berroya said.

The relay stations, which can be viewed from the hilly headquarters of the 701st brigade some 3 kilometers away, are owned by Dole, the Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co., Philcom Telecom and Liberty Telecom.

The NPA rebels destroyed equipment in the four-building telecom complex at the peak of Sitio Mahayahay, Barangay Tuburan in Mawab during the attack Monday night.

Berroya estimated the value of the damage at P150 million based on estimates made by PLDT personnel who went to the area.

Jacinto Agoncillo, Philcom Telecom area manager, claimed in a report to the Phil. National Police regional headquarters in Camp Catitipan that four armed men in fatigue uniforms burned the firm's relay station site.

Agoncillo said the armed men disarmed Philcom's security guard Alberto Hermocilla of his .38 cal. revolver and held two of the firm's transmission technicians.

But the armed men later freed the three after setting the facilities on fire.

The attack followed the burning Saturday and Sunday of transmission installations of telecommunications giants Globe, Smart, and Piltel in the provinces of Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga, and Bataan, also allegedly by NPA rebels.

Another attack was being planned in General Natividad town, but civilians thwarted it.

Five of the 20 suspected rebels in Barangay Talabutab Norte in the town were killed by Army soldiers and policemen.

In a radio interview, Supt. Raul Bacalzo, Nueva Ecija police director, said information about the presence of armed rebels in the town was given by civilian volunteers.

These volunteers responded to calls by authorities for help in protecting vital installations and facilities in the province, he said.

Under Operation Bantay-Bayan, launched here following last week's arson attack on a Smart cell site in the Science City of Muñoz, the public is asked to provide information that would help stop similar attacks by communist rebels.

Bacalzo confirmed that New People's Army rebels in General Natividad were planning to burn the cell site of a telecom company in the town.

One of those killed, Michael Macapagal Javier alias Ka Rico, admitted while being taken to a hospital that his group was responsible for the burning of the cell site in Muñoz, the police officer said.

Javier was from Barangay Butao in Cuyapo town. The other four slain rebels were not immediately identified. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Talks seen end to row on natural gas share

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The provincial government is still open to negotiations with the national government to get its share from the proceeds of the Camago-Malampaya gas-to-power project.

This, despite its earlier pronouncement that it will go to court if the national government will not give its 40-percent share mandated in the Local Government Code.

The national government has been insinuating that Palawan has legally no share because the project is located outside of Palawan's jurisdiction.

The issue is expected to be settled during the 10-day state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the United States and Mexico where Gov. Joel Reyes is among the President's party.

He was also part of the President's party in her visit to Japan last September.

With this recent trip, the provincial government hopes to get a win-win solution with the national government. According to provincial information officer Rolando Bonoan, Reyes was personally invited by the President to help the province in its tourism promotion and to attract potential investors.

This, he said, is important during these times when the economy is badly beaten due to recent terrorist-related activities.

Before the governor left, he designated Vice Goy. David Ponce de-Leon to act as the local chief executive.

Board member Leoncio Ola will act as vice governor.

Reyes also ordered the local tourism office to concentrate on the upcoming Philippine Travel Mart on Nov. 23-25 in Mandaluyong City where Palawan's best will be showcased.

New and exciting tour packages will be launched in the event.

Some residents here, however, believed that Reyes' trip with the President would not help the local economy.

They said he should have been advised to just stay in the province to focus on local issues.

The frequent visits of the governor to Manila have also gained criticism from the opposition.

The provincial government, however, insisted that Reyes' trips to Manila are part of his campaign to visit Palawan, especially now that the tourism peak season is about to start.

These are also official business trips to get funds from international agencies, it added. ***Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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Slain auditor's pals press bid for justice

BAGUIO CITY—Friends and high school classmates of slain Ilocos Sur auditor Agustin Chan Jr. had to wait for the end of the traditional 40-day mourning before launching a signature campaign on Monday to give justice to his death.

"We had to fight for what is right. This is a challenge to the people of Ilocos Sur from Baguio that you do not condone criminality in your province," said Poks Lacsamana, spokesperson of the Class 1965 of the Saint Louis University's Boys High School.

Chan and his driver Alex Ragacho were gunned down on Oct. 4 in Bantay, Ilocos Sur.

Lacsamana said Chan's classmates believe that his death was related to his job as provincial auditor. Among the more than 240 members of Class 1965 is Chief Supt. Dominador Ventura who heads the "Task Force Chan" organized to solve Chan's murder.

Sen. Luisa Ejercito, who attended the burial of Chan here, said the death of the auditor has something to do with his being a key witness for former President Joseph Estrada during the Senate blue ribbon committee hearing last year on corruption charges against Estrada.

During the hearing, Chan said it was then Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson who authorized the release of P130 million worth of tobacco excise tax to the province.

Lacsamana said before his death, Chan had already been complaining that his job as Ilocos Sur auditor was becoming difficult because financial transactions there were not consistent with auditing rules.

"He had been saying that he was always on his toes and looking at his back," Lacsamana said.

He said they would coordinate with the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance, a multisectoral group in Ilocos that vowed to expedite Chan's murder case.

"Our strong conviction that Chan's ambush-slaying is work-related, particularly regarding the alleged anomalies in the provincial government, is becoming clearer," Nestor Segismundo, Sisa president, said.***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

ROUNDUP

Not in the payola

LEGAZPI CITY—Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police regional director, has denied the accusation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson that he tolerates jueteng and receives *payola*. Galang said he has even angered jueteng operators, who have resorted to all means to destroy his reputation. "Senator Lacson knew of my fight against the illegal activity even when I was still in my previous assigned region and he was still the PNP chief," Galang said. He added he is ready to face investigation to prove his innocence.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Man shot by friend

LEGAZPI CITY—His friend shot a 26-year-old man at his residence in Mandaon, Masbate. Edwin Villanueva was drinking gin with his bosom friend, Roldan Rubis, 29, when Rubis suddenly shot him several times with a .38 cal. pistol in front of his wife. Police said Villanueva died on the spot while Rubis fled after the incident. Villanueva's wife Gloria said she overheard the two talk about a telenovela.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 killed in collision

LEGAZPI CITY—Four employees of a telephone company here were killed while another was injured in San Fernando, Camarines Sur about 1 a.m. Wednesday when a six-wheeler truck collided with a van owned by the telephone firm in Naga City. Killed on the spot were Donato Baldovino, driver of the van, Bonifacio Quiñones, Susan Angsioco—all residents of Pasacao, Camarines Sur—and the truck driver, Gerry Abiada of Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City. At least three unidentified persons were rushed to a hospital for injuries.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Book on Mindanao

LEGAZPI CITY—Bicolano scholar Soliman Santos Jr., a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Camarines Sur Chapter has proposed a charter change to include the Bangsamoro Islamic Region. Soliman said the proposal is part of a solution to the Bangsamoro problem and is contained in Santos' book "The Moro Islamic Challenge: Constitutional Rethinking for the Mindanao Peace Process," which the University of the Philippines Press launched recently. (Telefax 9282558, press@up.edu.ph).

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Pusher nabbed with shabu

TABACO CITY—Police arrested a suspected drug pusher here the other day in his house at Barangay Sto. Cristo. Police identified the suspect as Alfredo Belchez, 32. Belchez was arrested after handing a sachet of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu to a police asset who acted as a buyer, police said. Seized from Belchez were two sachets of shabu weighing 4.06 grams valued at P5,000 and the marked money. The suspect is now jailed at the Tabaco District jail.

Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NPA camp found

LUCENA CITY—Government troops have discovered a newly abandoned communist guerrilla camp in Barangay Rosario, Mauban, Quezon. Maj. Gerard Velez, Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command spokesperson, said the camp has 30 nipa huts. Velez said the place appeared to have been "hastily abandoned."

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Chinese sailor drowns

MATI, Davao Oriental—A Chinese sailor died while swimming in a private seaport here on Tuesday. Xin Guang, 25, of Hunan, China cried for help but the workers of the International Copra Export Corp. thought the victim was joking, so they ignored him. The workers said they realized that the cry for help was real only when the victim did not surface. However, efforts to rescue Guang failed.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Cafgu men slain

MATI, Davao Oriental—Suspected New People's Army rebels killed two Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit members in Barangay Namunga in Boston town on Wednesday. Maj. Alexis Gopico, commander of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion here identified the victims as Charlie Tutupan and Precillo Intig. He said the two were snatched from their posts at the Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines.

Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau

New OMA head

BAGUIO CITY—A Tausug woman assumed the leadership of the Office of Muslim Affairs for Ilocos, Cordillera, Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon. This was the first time that a Tausug, and a woman, was appointed OMA Northern Luzon director but Hadja Alnahor Pungutan Lazo said she has no problem with that. "Women empowerment is getting stronger. If you don't lead, how can you bring changes?" said Lazo, who replaced Amer Gunting as OMA officer-in-charge on Monday.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NPA surrenders

NAGTIPUNAN, Quirino—A ranking officer of the New People's Army surrendered to the police here on Wednesday. Supt. Rodolfo Tutaan, Quirino police director, said Fermin Garma, 22, also known as Ka Mike, has decided to leave the NPA following a month-long negotiation by the police with members of his family in Maddela town. Garma was a medical officer of the Samahang Yunit Pampropaganda 2 of the NPA's Venerando Villacillo Front operating in Isabela, Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Gov't to lose P4.6M in sale of sugar

BY JUAN ESCANDOR JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—The good news is that the Office of the Customs Commissioner has acted on the disposal of the 17,500 bags of refined sugar that had been stocked for more than a year at the National Food Authority warehouse in Tabaco City.

The bad news is that the government could lose about P4.6 million from a negotiated sale, which the Department of Finance (DoF) approved on Oct. 28.

That is, if the Bureau of Customs' Auction and Cargo Disposal Committee (ACDC) buckles to the demand of the buyer to declare 25 percent of the commodity "unfit for human consumption," said Marcial Lopez, former customs collector in Bicol.

Lopez was floated from his assignment in Bicol after the INQUIRER ran last month the story on 17,500 sacks of refined sugar rotting in the NFA warehouse in Tabaco City because of an apparent inaction from the Office of the Customs Commissioner.

The former Bicol customs collector said the ACDC members, who are tasked to implement the negotiated sale, reported to him on Monday that a representative of buyer Monika Trading tried to throw his weight around, using the name of Commissioner Titus Villanueva.

Approval

Lopez said ACDC members quoted the representative of the buyer to have said that "*kailangang bawiin namin ang binigay kay* Villanueva (we have to take back what we have given to Villanueva)" if the 25 percent of the sugar commodity would not be declared "unfit for human consumption."

He said he advised the ACDC to stand by the order of the DoF and ignore the pressure from the buyer.

In the second letter of endorsement from the DoF, Undersecretary Cornelio Cison approved the negotiated sale of refined sugar at P1,045 per bag.

The approved price of the negotiated sale of refined sugar was offered by Monika Trading, which submitted the highest bid among the interested buyers.

Remilled

Lopez said the sacks of refined sugar, even as these have been stocked at the NFA warehouse for more than a year, could be easily re-milled to regain its former quality which, he said, could be sold at a higher price.

He said without the 25 percent condemnation of the 17,500 sacks of refined sugar, the government could earn about P18.3 from the negotiated sale at P1,045 per bag.

In a memorandum letter to Villanueva, Enrico Turingan Jr., officer-in-charge and temporary replacement of Lopez as customs collector in Bicol, inquired whether the price of P1,045 per bag is applicable to all the 17,500 bags of refined sugar, which are the subject of the negotiated sale.

"Are we correct to assume that the price of P1,045 per bag is applicable to a bag of 50 kilograms, so that a bag weighing less than 50 kilograms (due to deterioration) must correspondingly be reduced in value?" Turingan asked.

With this memo letter, Lopez claimed, the justification of the declaration of the 25 percent of the 17,500 bags of refined sugar as "unfit for human consumption" was being laid.

He suspected that several officials of the BoC would benefit from the condemnation of at least 4,375 bags of refined sugar under the negotiated sale.

The 17,500 sacks of refined sugar, which was aboard MV Marton, was forfeited in favor of the government after the NFA, which claimed the cargo consigned to NFA assistant regional director Pedro Lapid, failed to comply with the documents the BoC asked.

The forfeiture order became final and executory on Aug. 15, 2001.

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₱1,000,000
RHODA ANN C. PRADO
No. 47 Concepcion Grande, Naga City 4400

₱500,000
JENNIFER H. SERRANO
No. 4 Katangian St., Kalayaan B.,
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

₱500,000
RENILO R. ABELLA
Block 23, Lot 14, Xavier Heights,
Cagayan de Oro City 9000

₱500,000
FERNANDO C. RIZATE
Bo. Nayon, San Enrique, Negros Occidental

₱250,000
LARA BALAJADIA
Makan Ladangal, General Santos City

₱250,000
ROSITA S. SORICO
San Bartolome, Sto. Tomas, Batangas

₱250,000
SERGIO L. GUIRIGAY
No. 739 Quirino St., Padada, Davao del Sur

₱125,000
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No. 0017 Purok Tanguile, Terbod, Iligan City 9200

₱125,000
JOEL B. ELISON
No. 21 20th St., Upper Nazareth,
Cagayan de Oro City

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DAISY E. CASTELLON
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Pride

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San Mateo, Rizal
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Homes, Quezon City Unit-3-C1
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Avon Service Center, Osmeña
St., Sogod, Southern Leyte
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Tala, Caloocan City
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Blk. 80 Excess Lot Phase VI,
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VERONICA M. QUINDOY
Belinario Subdivision, Bajada,
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Matina, Davao City
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SUSAN C. YU
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Jose Lim St., Cotabato City
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Cebu City
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No. 592 Tenement Bldg.,
Taguig, Metro Manila
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Purok 8, Block 3, Brgy.
Patima, General Santos City
MILALUNA DIPON
PRK. King Fisher,
Brgy. 16, Bacolod City
ANTONIO D. BALLARES
Sto. Niño, Brgy. 2, Bacolod City
MONINA INDOSO
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Malay, Aklan
CARMELITA S. DURANO
c/o Brent Hospital,
Zamboanga City
JULIETA OLIVAR
Agora Mambato, Lapasan,
Cagayan de Oro City
SHIERLITA G. TORREJOS
Phase II, Area 2, Block 34,
Lot 27, Kaunlaran Village,
Navotas, Metro Manila
NICOLAS G. ESPIRITU
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Sto. Tomas (Bukid), Pasig City
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DLNHS Sta. Clara Subdivision,
Bacolod City, Negros Occidental
ROLANDO NADUMA
St. Thores Ext., Camp E. Pateg,
Cagayan de Oro City
MARILOU P. LAZO
Upper Canduman,
Mandaue City, Cebu
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INQUIRER Visayas
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Lives, dreams buried in a mine pit

BY DEBRA JANE V. MAGALLON
Toledo City, Cebu

HEAVY rains triggered by Typhoon "Nanang" triggered a landslide one Wednesday afternoon at an abandoned mining pit inside the compound of the Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. in this city.

It would turn out to be a fateful day.

Fourteen men were buried alive in the pile of earth and boulders that poured on the pit.

Among them was Sabino Largo, maintenance electrician of the ACMDC. He left behind a wife and three daughters, aged 13, 12 and four months.

"He was very loving to me and to his kids. He still had a lot of dreams for our family," said his wife, Rose.

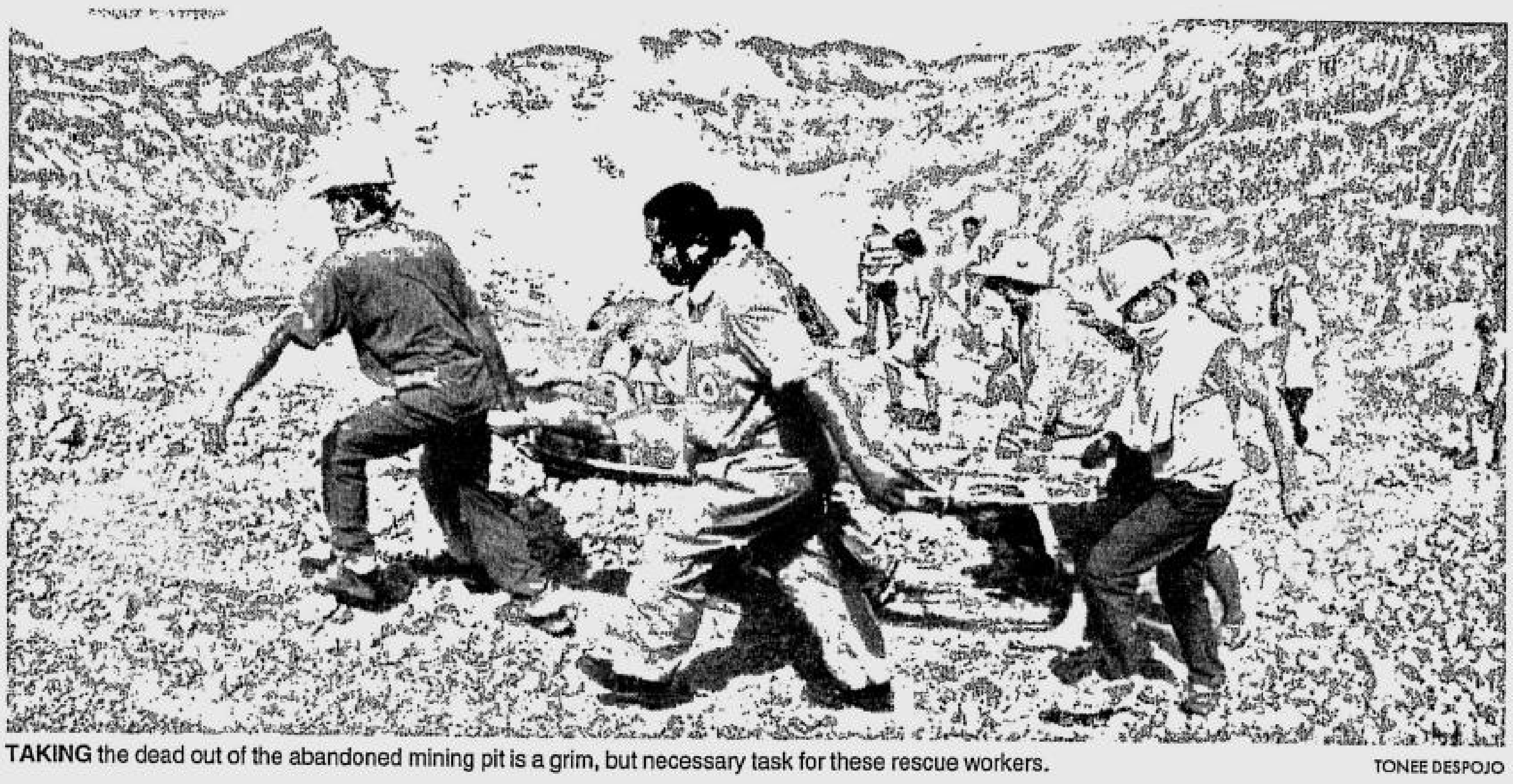
Rose said he also was very supportive of their eldest daughter, Zerah Mae, a high school freshman at the De La Salle University in Barangay Lutopan who is considered a "genius" by her family.

Sabino was Zerah's usual companion whenever she joined interschool quiz bowls, which sometimes reached the national level.

Sabino had been with Atlas since 1986. He belonged to the last batch of employees who were laid off in 1998, five years after the mining firm shut down its operations in 1993 due to financial problems.

In December 2000, the company hired Sabino and a handful of workers to help maintain the abandoned mining pit. The company also tapped the Jonan Construction to drain water from the pits.

The Mines and Geo-Sciences Bureau has required Atlas to maintain the pits to prevent a repeat of a fishkill in 1999. Traces of copper, lead and sulfuric acid from Atlas' Biga pit had contaminated waters off Toledo and Balamban town on Aug. 9, 1999.



TAKING the dead out of the abandoned mining pit is a grim, but necessary task for these rescue workers. TONEE DESPOJO

Except for the drizzle, Rose recalled that there was nothing unusual in the morning of Nov. 7. She said he even played with their baby before leaving for work, which was a kilometer away. The family lives in Happy Valley inside the ACMDC compound.

In the afternoon, 24 workers, including Sabino, were told to move out about P2-million worth of water pumps from the Carmen pit as the rains started to worsen.

But water had loosened the soil and sipped into cracks in the rocks. About 2:30 p.m., 500 tons of mud and boulders fell into the pit.

The workers immediately scampered for safety. Ten managed to escape while 14 were left behind. Four of those killed, including Sabino, were Atlas workers. The rest were with Jonan Construction.

An MGB team from Manila had cleared the ACMDC of any liability, saying the workers were "unfortunate victims of a natural calamity."

The team said there was about 300 cubic meters of water inside the Carmen pit. When the boulders fell into the water, the team said, the water level rose by 40 meters, sweeping away the workers.

Rose said she learned of the tragedy about 5 p.m. that day. Heavy rains, however, prevented her family from going near the site.

The next day, Sabino's family immediately went to the collapsed mines, hoping to find Sabino alive.

But operations to retrieve the 14 were suspended because the ground was soft. Rescue workers feared that a landslide might occur if they continued to bulldoze the mine site.

On Nov. 9, rescuers found eight bodies floating on rainwater that filled the mining pit. They were identified as Sabino, Paterno Alforque, Cirilio Tura and Zomercindo Magtagad, all working for Atlas; and Dionisio Consigna, Cristino Dayab, Rolando Sabal and Rolando Dayag, of Jonan Construction.

Four Jonan workers remained missing—Marcos Dichos, Ruben Seban, Ruel Traya and Ranilo Sarinas.

Some of the bodies were already decomposing when found. Sabino was identified through the ring in his finger that had a distinctive crack.

Rose said she was also able to recognize the body of her husband because of his haircut. "I was the one who cut his hair about two weeks ago," she said in Cebuano.

Paz Tura broke down upon seeing the body of her husband, Cirilio. She said she had remained hopeful that he would be among the survivors when she learned about the tragedy from a neighbor.

"He was a very determined person. If he wanted to do something, he would do it," said Paz, her voice hoarse from crying.

She said she knew that Cirilio did not want to die because he could never leave behind his six children, the youngest of whom is 17 years old.

"He was a very giving person and he loved his children very much," Paz said.

Her husband, she added, continued to provide financial support to two of their children who had settled down.

His children could not stop crying during his wake at his house in Barangay Sipaway, Toledo.

Among them was Maria Portia, 19, who just arrived from Manila where she had been working.

"The last time I saw my father alive was last June 29, when I was about to leave (for Manila)," she said.

Portia recalled that he had always reminded her to be good to others.

Indeed, Cirilio had been very good to his neighbors. He was a friend to everyone. During his wake, Paz was surprised to see people, who she did not know, paying their last respects to Cirilio.

Another victim, Alforque, left three children. His wife had died ahead of him.

Now that Alforque is gone, his relatives will have to take care of his children, said Teody Largo, Sabino's brother.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Alforque's relatives but all refused to be interviewed.

Now that they have buried their husbands, the problem confronting the widows is how to raise their children.

In the case of Paz and Rose, both do not have jobs to support their children because they used to stay at home, taking care of the needs of their family.

Now, they do not know where to look for jobs that will provide food on the table and send their children to school.

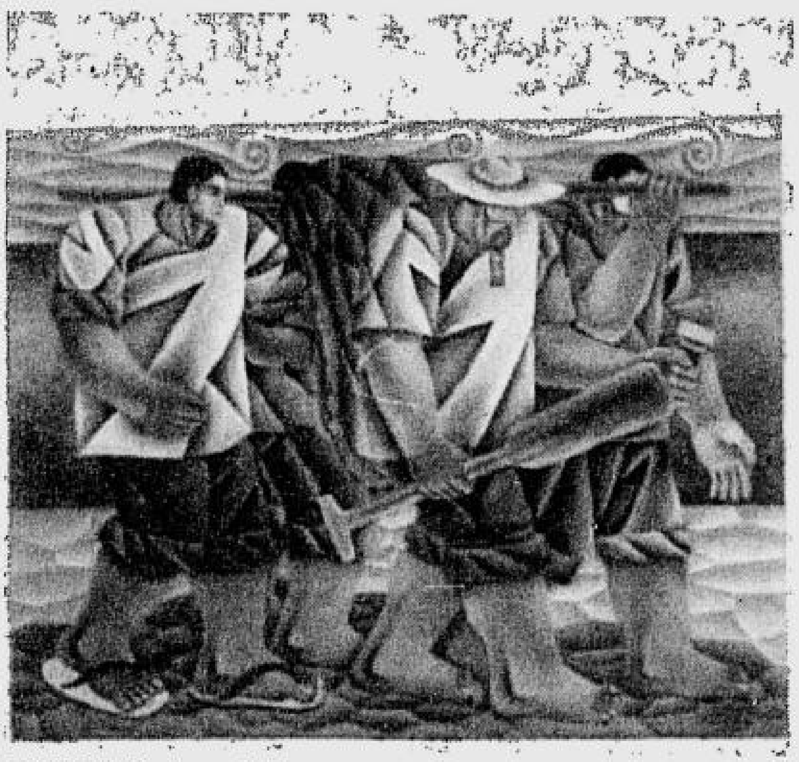
Both Jonan Construction and the ACMDC had promised to provide financial assistance to the victims' families.

But Teody said they only received a coffin and P10,000 in cash from Atlas. The money, he added, was advance payment of the termination fee due the workers.

Paz said she, too, received P10,000 in cash but she was not sure if it was already part of her husband's termination fee.

It has been more than a week since the tragedy occurred and the rains have stopped, the boulders and mud that poured on the pit are slowly being removed.

Life has to go on for the workers' loved ones.



ANTHONY Geduspan's "Tuwang-tuwang", oil on canvas, 3x4 feet, one of the works displayed at the visual arts exhibit of Hublag. ARNOLD ALMACEN

'Hublag,' a festival for the sake of art

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
Iloilo City

THE DIFFERENCE between *iraya* and *ilawod*, Hiligaynon for upland and lowland, became blurred when close to a hundred artists, cultural workers, artisans and art patrons met yesterday for "Hublag," the biggest Ilonggo arts festival since 1995.

The 10-day festival, hosted by the Arts Council of Iloilo, is an interaction between modern and indigenous artists in Panay, Negros and Guimaras islands, in a setting where every one is an artist and where their works are not classified as high-brown or low-brow art.

"Hublag is a venue where traditional and modern art are given equal importance. Traditional artists are not to be regarded as artisans or crafts persons but artists in their own right," said Romeo de'la Cruz, commissioner on the sub-commission for cultural communities and traditional arts of the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts.

It used to be that art patrons in the cities and population centers dismissed art works in highlands and rural areas as handicrafts.

When looking for motifs or accents, some artists look to the mountains for inspiration, a practice that has been criticized as one that bastardizes indigenous art.

"Hublag gives equal importance to modern, traditional and indigenous art. The organizers are conscious that the cultural identity of communities and groups of artists are protected," said Dea Doromal, president of the Arts Council of Iloilo (ACI), who helped organized the first Hublag visual arts exhibit in 1988.

The highlights of the festival include a demonstration of the dying textile weaving tradition, workshops on making musical instruments, culture and dances of indigenous Bukidnon people in central Panay, terracotta and Aeta or Ati crafts and music.

The festival also features a food fair showcasing the cuisine of Panay, and a workshop on "pagdayaw," a monologue in praise of a beauty queen that is popular in the towns and villages of Western Visayas.

The visual arts exhibit in the festival is a reunion of senior artists who had been regular in previous Hublag exhibition like Edward Defensor, Fred Orig, Nunelucio Alvarado and Charlie Coo.

It also features younger artists from Iloilo like Junjun Duarte, Jomari Moleta and Al Provido.

A series of forums is scheduled during the festival to allow interaction among the artists, members of the academe and the community.

One of the topics to be discussed is how to revitalize the decaying central business district of Iloilo that has been turning into a retail slum after malls have sprouted in the city.

Another forum, to be hosted by the Iloilo City Cultural Heritage Commission, will bring together architects, historians and cultural workers to discuss how to preserve commercial buildings along J.M. Basa and Iznart Streets.

Aside from these, there will also be nightly performances on traditional "composo" singing, classical renditions of folk and contemporary Ilonggo music and Ilonggo films. A cultural fiesta will cap the affair on Nov. 25.

Rival groups accuse former NPAs of abuses, extortion

BY NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
Janiuay, Iloilo

THE PRESENCE and alleged abuses of the breakaway Revolutionary Proletarian-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) have placed this mountain town on the edge.

The extortion racket allegedly perpetrated by the RPA-ABB rebels has victimized farmers, sand and gravel concessionaires, storeowners and even politicians in Janiuay, 32 kilometers from the capital Iloilo City. It has also reached the attention of local officials led by town Mayor Frankie Locsin.

The rebel group reportedly joined night patrols of barangay peace and order volunteers and even roamed in at least 12 villages toting their long firearms.

But Locsin said he could not do anything because there was no formal complaint from barangay residents. He also pointed out that there is a ceasefire between the government and the RPA-ABB in place.

"I brought up the issue with provincial police officials and they said there is a peace pact between (the) RPA-ABB and the Estrada (administration). I think the peace agreement should be reviewed because it is not working well," said Locsin.

Enforcers

Twenty farmer-leaders visited Locsin late last month and asked him if the RPA-ABB was part of the local police force or is with the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu).

The RPA-ABB members told the villagers that they were tasked to maintain peace and order in the barangays especially during fiestas and village dances.

"What they are doing is typical and common banditry," said Locsin. But he admitted that the town is in the dark on the status of the rebel group.

Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, police director for Western Visayas, is investigating reports of alleged abuses of the RPA-ABB, which was recently the subject of complaints from the Federation of Iloilo Farmers Association (FIFA) and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

The Bayan and the FIFA also accused police officers in the town of condoning the alleged illegal activities of the breakaway rebel group.

Quoting a report of Karapatan, a human rights group that conducted a fact-finding mission in Janiuay last Oct. 9-11, Bayan-Panay chair Jeffrey Celiz implicated RPA-ABB members in several criminal activities including the robbery of a delivery van on Sept. 20 in Barangay Danao where six armed men wearing bonnets took at least P20,000 and P3,000 worth of cigarettes and other items.

Abuses

The RPA-ABB members also allegedly fired their weapons during drinking sprees and extorted P10 per truck from a concessionaire that quarries sand in the Suage River.

In an interview with television station GMA in Iloilo City, Demetrio "Ka Hugo" Capilastique, said to be the leader of the RPA-ABB, denied the allegations, saying these were all lies.

The RPA-ABB also sent press statements to media outlets in Iloilo, claiming that the Bayan and the FIFA merely wanted to derail the peace talks between the government and the breakaway rebel group.

Jeffrey Celiz of Bayan denied they were against the peace talks. "We stand for peace based on justice and on resolving the legitimate demands of the people for land, jobs and humane existence. But we are opposed to 'peace' between rogues that ultimately harm the people."

Garcia denied that policemen were allowing the RPA-ABB to engage in criminal activities. "We do not tolerate such activities," he stressed.

Police denial

Supt. Delbe Olano, chief of the second Iloilo Provincial Mobile Group, and Senior Insp. Alexis Relado, Janiuay police chief, also denied the allegations as well as the existence of the alleged extortion activity by the RPA-ABB in the town.

Garcia said his office had been verifying the reports. He had also talked to Carapali Lualhati, the *nom de guerre* of RPA-ABB national commander Stephen Paduano who is based in Negros Occidental.

The RPA-ABB broke away from the mainstream revolutionary movement led by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and New People's Army (NPA) in the early 1990s over political and ideological differences. Bayan has been associated with the mainstream communist group.

On Dec. 10, 2000, leaders of the RPA-ABB and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas signed a peace pact with the Estrada administration.

Among the provisions of the peace pact were the granting of permits to carry firearms to 100 RPA-ABB members nationwide and P500 million in "development funds" to finance livelihood projects for the rebels.

New talks

Church leaders and civil society groups in Negros Occidental had been demanding a re-negotiation of the peace pact to change provisions that they believe were disadvantageous to the people.

The CPP-NPA has been accusing the RPA-ABB of colluding with the government for a fee. The mainstream faction also claimed that the RPA-ABB has been joining government troops in operations against the NPA especially after two NPA guerrillas were killed in an attack by a team of the RPA-ABB in Antique province last May.

Garcia said the RPA-ABB members are still not allowed to carry firearms because the agreement is undergoing review by a peace panel headed by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez. "They would be arrested on sight if they carry firearms."

He, however, said that under the peace pact, the RPA-ABB and government forces agreed not to launch any offensive operations against each other.

Garcia urged the alleged victims of RPA-ABB abuses to affirm the allegations of the militant groups by reporting the abuses to the Iloilo provincial police office or to the police regional headquarters in Camp Martin Delgado in Iloilo City.

"We will guarantee their safety and anonymity," he said.

But Nilo Arado of the FIFA said most of their members, who were victimized by the RPA-ABB, are afraid to come out. They even refused to be interviewed by the media for fear of reprisals from the breakaway rebel group.

He said the farmers would say to them: "It's alright if you are still with us but we do not know what they will do when we are alone in our homes when the night comes." *With a report from Ma. Diosa Labiste*

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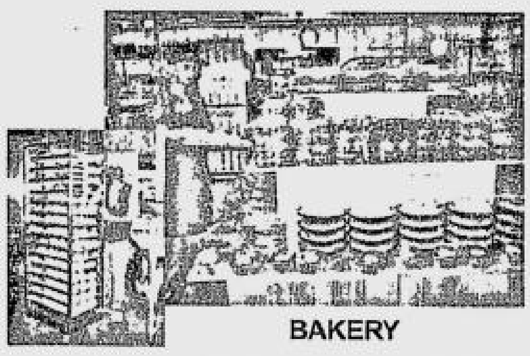
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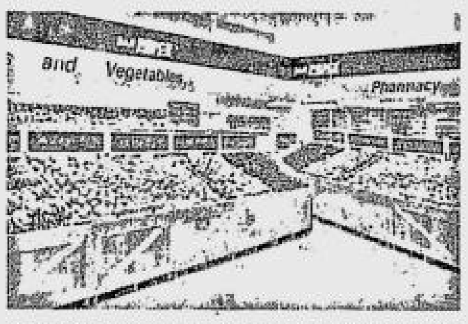
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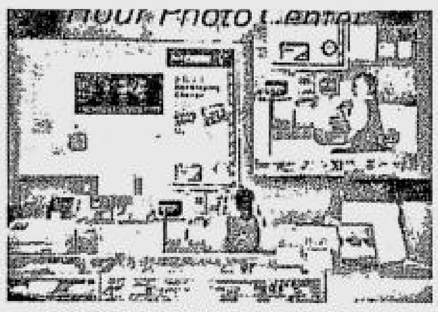
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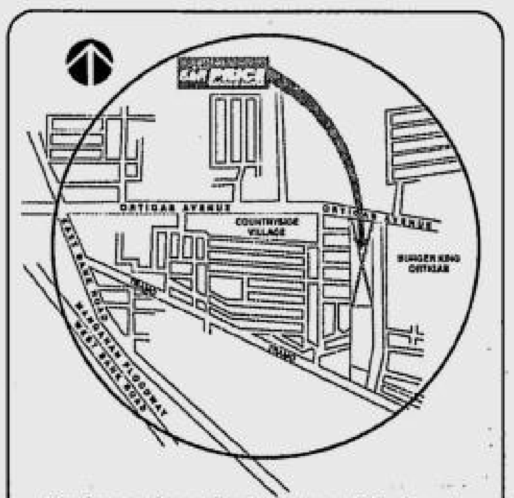

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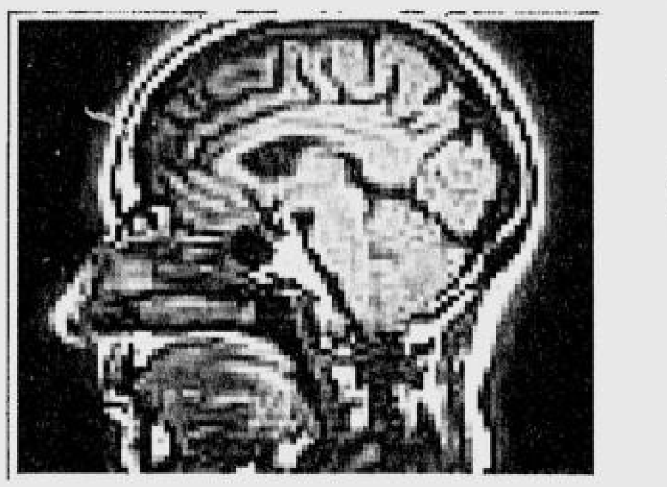

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Address E-mail Address
Age Height Weight

Hopes high for rescue of American hostages

(From page A1)

In a teleconference call from New York, Tiglao told reporters that the President was also "very happy" about the recovery of the other hostages, including Angelica Montealegre and Maria Fe Rosadeno, who were among those seized from Dos Palmas.

Tiglao said the hopes for the recovery of the Burnhams were "not just because the President is meeting with Bush but because the two Americans have suffered enough."

He said the President was calling on the Abu Sayyaf to release the Burnhams as well as the last Filipino hostage, Deborah Yap, "because there's no use for them now to keep the American hostages."

Yap, a nurse, was among those taken from a hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, in June.

Tiglao said military operations would continue despite the start yesterday of the Ramadan, a holy period of fasting and prayer for Muslims.

Asked what the Philippine government had committed to US authorities with respect to the Burnhams, he said: "The President's commitment is that she and her government and the AFP will do everything to secure the safe release of the two hostages.

"The orders are for the military to continue their operations, but they have to keep in mind the safety of the hostages."

Cimatu said he expected the rescue of the two Americans "any time, if we have visual contact with (the Abu Sayyaf) now."

'Highly personal'

Montealegre said they last saw the Burnhams on Nov. 14.

"I cannot say that they are okay because they're not," she said. "They're thin. We have little food. We were not fed well because soldiers were blocking food supplies."

Montealegre showed photographers a sealed envelope that, she said, contained a letter that the Burnhams wanted sent to their family in Wichita, Kansas.

Cimatu said he did not open the envelope because the contents of the letter were believed to be "highly personal."

Montealegre said that before they were freed, the hostages and their captors were already "surrounded by soldiers."

She stressed that they were released by Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, and that it was not the first time that attempts were made to free them.

"It was already the fourth attempt," she said. "We were released by Abu Sabaya. It was the group's decision to free us."

Montealegre said the Abu Sayyaf did not maltreat the hostages and even shielded them during encounters with the military.

"They were very protective of us," she said. "We were the first to be taken out of the firing line. They did not want us to be intercepted by other groups, particularly the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front)."

Cimatu said the ex-hostages, especially Montealegre, were afflicted with the Stockholm syndrome, a condition wherein captives identified and sympathized with their captors.

He said that while the government would provide full support for their "rehabilitation," their families would have to largely facilitate their return to normal life.

At the press conference, Montealegre and Rosadeno were still wearing the traditional Muslim head covering.

Montealegre said Thursday that they had converted to Islam.

Malaysian

Agence France Presse quoted Rosadeno as saying in an interview with the Radio Mindanao Network that their release was mainly due to Malaysian Sairin Karno and Samsamin Ampatuan, "who convinced Abu Sabaya to free us."

But in Malacañang, Cimatu denied that Karno played a role in the release of the seven hostages.

"No, no, nothing, nothing," he said when asked about Karno's supposed participation.

Last year, Karno was instrumental in obtaining the release of the Malaysian captives among 21 foreign and local hostages seized by the Abu Sayyaf from the Malaysian resort of Sipadan and held in Jolo.

Rosadeno was the girlfriend of another American Dos Palmas hostage, Guillermo Sobero, whom the Abu Sayyaf announced it had beheaded in June.

AFP quoted her as saying that his death was "painful" for her because he was her fiancé.

She sobbed as she recalled how Sobero had come to the Philippines to be with her, only to end up beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf.

"All I can say to Gil's (Sobero's) family, parents and friends is that I'm so sorry," Rosadeno said. "I'm sorry that this thing had to happen. I love him very much and it's so painful to me now."

In contrast to her previously ambivalent remarks on the Abu Sayyaf, she angrily declared: "I hate them so much, I condemn them."

AFP also quoted Montealegre as saying in a press conference yesterday morning at the Southcom headquarters in Zamboanga City: "Sabaya told us we would be released to the Philippine OMA (Office of Muslim Affairs)."

But military officers reportedly quickly cut her off, preventing her from giving details on the role of the OMA, which is headed by Ampatuan.

As he did on Thursday, Cimatu refused yesterday to say how and where the hostages were recovered.

"I do not want to divulge what happened. It may jeopardize the next operations," he said.

Cimatu said the military had received surrender feelers from Sabaya, Abu Sayyaf chief Khaddafy Janjalani and subcommander Isnilon Hapilon.

He said he had told the relatives of these Abu Sayyaf leaders that the military would stop its operations on two conditions: the unconditional surrender of the bandits and the release of the three remaining hostages.

Christmas

In Zamboanga, Cimatu expressed the wish that the military would be able to recover the Burnhams before Christmas.

"It will be a merry Christmas not only for the Americans but also for all of us," he told the INQUIRER.

Brig. Gen. Glicerio Sua, commander of the Army's 1st Tabak Division, said he was hoping it would be "a White Christmas for the Burnhams."

He added that they were also working hard to rescue Yap.

The military again presented the ex-hostages, along with their families, to the media in Zamboanga before they boarded a Fokker plane for a meeting with Vice President Teofisto Guingona in Malacañang.

"Here they are, complete. It's like a reunion, with a nice exchange of ideas," Cimatu said.

In Camp Aguinaldo, Acting Defense Secretary Edgardo Batenga reiterated that it was "the policy of the national leadership and of the Department of Defense" to "sustain military operations" despite Ramadan.

Batenga said in a press conference that no ransom would be paid for the remaining hostages and no negotiations would be conducted for their release.

"No, no, no. We will never negotiate. We will not stop our operations. Our intention is to destroy totally the Abu Sayyaf within our capability," he said. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil; Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP***

Merger may lead to neglect of agriculture

(From page A1)

tion yet. But I'm sure it will be taken care of."

Alonzo, who served as president of the Pag-Ibig fund from 1989 to 1999, said about 10 percent of SBGFC's loans go to the agriculture and fisheries sector on average. She could not yet say, however, whether this average would be maintained under the new setup.

Administrator Bernardo J. B. Mitra of the Livelihood Corp., which used to manage the GFSME, rued the farmers' loss. "Definitely, the support for the farmers will become smaller."

Expectedly, the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas denounced the merger.

"How can you be so sure now if the new SBGFC would still focus on agri-fisheries programs and projects? Their mandates are entirely different. One is in agricultural production, the other is in trade. No matter how small the fund is, the issue is that you took that away from the agri-fisheries sector," KMP chair Rafael Mariano said.

The "rationalization" of the two guarantee funds comes in the wake of presidential decisions last month transferring the National Food Authority and the Philippine Coconut Authority to the Office of the President and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. to the Department of Finance. All three were "attached" agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

Change of mind

After the President issued Executive Order 19 on May 30, transferring the GFSME from the DA to the Department of Trade and Industry, and EO 28 on July 30, consolidating the GFSME with the SBGFC "to rationalize the credit guarantee and related financial supplementation support systems for the SME sector," Montemayor withdrew his objection last October.

"We made our views known through internal memos," he explained to the INQUIRER last month. "But since the President has already decided by issuing the EO transferring it to the DTI, we have to respect and follow the President's decision."

"I suppose the lawyers in Malacañang have studied this carefully and they thought that you could place GFSME under DTI without violating any law."

But in his May 18 letter, Montemayor also objected to the reorganization because it would violate the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (Afma). The landmark law provides for the consolidation into one fund—the Agriculture and Fisheries Credit Guarantee Fund (AFCGF)—various credit guarantee schemes and funds operated by the GFSME, Quedancor and the Comprehensive Agricultural Loan Fund (CALF).

"Any merger, consolidation or transfer of GFSME with another agency will, therefore, be illegal for being violative of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997," Montemayor wrote.

Administrator Mitra shared Montemayor's original view. "It's not a legal transfer. You can't supersede a law with an EO," he told the INQUIRER.

On Oct. 30, party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo filed a resolution seeking a congressional investigation into the legality of the merger. "Can a mere executive order supersede a law enacted by Congress?" Ocampo asked.

Leading civil-society lawyer Leonard de Vera said "a legitimate legal question" could arise if the comprehensive fund for the agriculture and fishery sectors was diverted and used for other purposes.

"I could see a problem if they would use the funds for non-agriculture purposes," he told the INQUIRER, stressing that the President's EOs should have clearly stated that funds dedicated to agriculture and fisheries would remain with the DA.

All funds

Lagua disputed this interpretation, however.

"Their appreciation of Afma is wrong," he said. "If you read the law closely, it's clearly stated there that all funds related to agriculture and fisheries shall be consolidated."

While GFSME has been transferred and merged with SBGFC, its funds dedicated to agriculture and eyed for consolidation into Afma's special fund had been turned over to the DA, he added.

He was referring to the P187.42-million CALF and the P100-million Agri-Makamasa loan. "These funds will not be part of the merger because these should be part of the AFCGF."

Rolando Dy, Ph.D., executive director of the Center for Food and Agriculture at the University of Asia and the Pacific, said GFSME's transfer to the DTI would not in any way affect the implementation of Afma.

"I don't think so. Quedancor is there. The newly organized SBGFC can focus on the processing side. Quedancor can focus on the lending. So there's still a way of dividing the pie and maybe operate it with less resources and still achieve the mandate," he said.

Nelson Buenaflor, president and CEO of Quedancor, echoed Dy's view. "Even Afma defines Quedancor as the primary guarantee outfit to run all these guarantee schemes."

A government financing institution, Quedancor guarantees and finances credit for micro and small-scale enterprises.

Montemayor had also argued that GFSME, being a mere guarantee program of Livecor, had no personality of its own and hence could not be consolidated with SBGFC.

"Since it is neither an agency nor a corporate entity, merger with the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp is not legally feasible," he said in his letter to Corona.

Mitra agreed with Montemayor. "It never gained a juridical personality. They don't own anything," he said.

"If you're going to move GFSME, you have to move Livecor together with GFSME. And you can't move it from one department to another department. If you want to do that, you have to go to the Office of the President," he added.

But Lagua said GFSME had its own financial statements and table of organization and was therefore self-sustaining.

"Instead of being a hindrance, it facilitates. If we have a charter, it would be more difficult to merge," he said.

Under the merger, GFSME is abolished and its assets transferred to the newly reorganized SBGFC. As of 2000, GFSME's total assets stood at P1.038 billion. Those of SBGFC reached P1.429 billion.

Knock-kneed Erap?

(From page A1)

presented to newsmen yesterday by the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino yesterday to emphasize why Estrada must undergo an operation abroad.

Hocson said Estrada stood the risk of being either knock-kneed or bow-legged if the prostheses needed for his joint replacement are merely shipped here and the operation is left to local surgeons.

"There is a new kind of metal prosthesis in the States, which we don't have (here) right now," Hocson said.

"So why not just bring it here? Because something might go wrong and he might end up being *piki* (knock-kneed) or *sakang* (bow-legged)," he said.

Hocson is a general surgeon at the Makati Medical Center and has been the personal physician of Estrada since the latter was a senator. He was the second doctor tapped by the PMP to justify Estrada's request to undergo knee surgery in the States.

Two weeks ago, the party produced what it said was a medical bulletin issued by California-based knee surgeon Dr. Christopher Mow stating that the equipment required for Estrada's treatment is not available in the Philippines.

In a PMP press conference at Club Filipino in San Juan, Hocson said Estrada's arthritic knees have "worsened" due to little physical activity since his detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in May.

"Drugs and injections will no longer do," he stressed.

Besides, he added, "anyone is entitled to seek medical attention from a doctor you're most at ease with."

"Ever since, it has been foreign doctors who have been examining his knees," Hocson said. "A surgical operation must always be near perfect."

Hocson said he was willing to present his medical opinion before the Sandiganbayan where lawyers defending Estrada in his plunder case filed last week a formal petition for their client's surgery in America.

The Estrada camp, including his lawyers and wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, have expressed willingness to be held responsible should the ex-president use his US treatment to escape prosecution.

Gloria hits ground running

(From page A1)

Francisco. US security personnel stopped a Filipino TV crew from taking any footage of the President's arrival.

With Ms Macapagal on the private jet were First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, Sen. Loren Legarda-Levistè and her husband and several Cabinet members.

Not one of the staff from the Press Secretary's office accompanying the President could say whether a private group had paid for the charter.

Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho said Ms Macapagal had to take the Learjet because of her "tight schedule."

The President could very easily have missed some of her New York appointments on Thursday had she taken a US commercial plane.

Press Secretary Noel Cabrera, who was with the President on the Learjet, said using a private plane gave Ms Macapagal more "flexibility" in her schedule.

The President began her nine-day US working visit in California with a meeting with the Filipino-American community in Burlingame on Wednesday.

"This is an opportunity for me to reiterate the support of the Philippines for the US-led coalition" against terrorism, she told a crowd of 1,000.

She was greeted by about 70 protesters who oppose her offer to let the US military use its former bases in the Philippines in the campaign against terrorism.

The White House said in a statement that Ms Macapagal and Bush would discuss "developments in the campaign against terror, regional security matters and ways to further strengthen cooperation between the United States and the Philippines."

Signing of agreements

The President hit the ground running on Thursday, her first day in New York, witnessing the signing of agreements with US companies for the setting up of two call centers in the Philippines, meeting with US business leaders and executives, and attending business forums and a reception and private dinner.

Scheduled to meet with Filipino journalists at 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, she begged off because of exhaustion.

The first agreement signed was between Immequire of the Philippines and the US-based Tele Response Center. Inc. (TRC) to conduct a telemarketing campaign to raise funds for US-based non-profit organizations.

Immequire is a provider of 24-hour, seven-days-a-week contact center and customer services. TRC develops programs for charities and non-profit organizations in the United States.

"I ask you to make this project a reality. It will add another top-caliber call center in the lineup of those already operating in the Philippines and therefore strengthen the Philippine position as a reliable and high quality base for customer contact center operation worldwide," the President said.

The second agreement was between Customer Contact Center, a Philippine-based call center operator, and the US-based Source One Communication, a provider of customer service and database management system services.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the ventures would generate from 3,000 to 4,000 jobs in the Philippines.

Roxas said the call centers would be given tax incentives and allowed duty-free importation of equipment.

The President also attended a garments forum and an energy forum at her hotel where, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said, several US firms had expressed interest in the privatization of the National Power Corp.

Ms Macapagal also met with Maurice Greenberg, chief executive officer of the American Insurance Group and Gerald Corrigan, the vice president of Goldman Sachs.

International advisers

Greenberg and Corrigan are part of a five-member International Group of Advisers helping the Philippines generate ideas on how to get the economy to recover.

The President attended the Asia Society Reception at the Garden Court and later had a private dinner with executives of the Chase Manhattan Bank.

Friday, Ms Macapagal was to deliver a speech at the United Nations, witness the signing of the UN Convention for the Suppression of Financing Terrorism, meet with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and visit Ground Zero with outgoing New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The President, who is staying at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on Park Avenue and 50th St., leaves for Washington on Sunday.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the subject of the US request for Rep. Mark Jimenez's extradition and Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged money laundering activities would not be on the table when the President meets with US officials next week.

"That's the concern of the justice department. It's not part of the agenda," Tiglao told Manila-based reporters in a phone interview from New York City yesterday.

But he admitted the justice department seemed to be having some difficulty in getting its US counterpart to verify Lacson's alleged US bank accounts as US officials have been focused on the anti-terrorist campaign since the Sept. 11 attack.

Nor is the case of Jimenez, whom the United States has asked to be extradited to face charges of mail fraud, tax evasion and illegal campaign contributions, likely to be discussed, Tiglao said.

Main topics

"The meeting with (President) Bush is just 45 minutes. There are other things to be discussed," he said, adding that the main topics were terrorism and bilateral cooperation.

An indication that the case would not be discussed is that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez is not in the official delegation.

Before she left for the United States on Tuesday, Ms Macapagal said she would ask Bush for military assistance to boost the military's capability to fight terrorism.

She said she would also bring up tourism, trade and investments in Mindanao, and the plight of Filipino-American war veterans.

And if there was time, she said she would bring up the matter of the toxic cleanup of the former US military bases here and the case of Amerasian children abandoned by their American fathers.

"Some of these concerns may not be discussed at the White House. But Filipino officials accompanying me will take them up with their counterparts in the appropriate Cabinet departments," she said.

De Venecia joins GMA

House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who left last night to join the presidential party, said he would propose to US congressional and defense officials the launching of a "global Muslim-Christian coalition" to help defeat international terrorism.

De Venecia, who is the vice president of the Christian-Democrats International, will be attending a CDI conference in Mexico.

The President, the titular head of the Christian Democrat Lakas-NUCD-UMDP, is making a half-day visit to Mexico and will address the CDI conference on Nov. 21.

De Venecia said he was proposing a global coalition and the mobilization of a 10-year "political and cultural program to win the hearts and minds of Muslim youths, strengthen Muslim moderates everywhere and outflank and isolate Islamic extremists."

De Venecia said governments should also undertake a global anti-poverty program as the "ultimate solution to international terrorism."

He said he would discuss this proposal with US congressional leaders, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and, if possible, with Bush.

He said he has discussed this proposal with Christian and Muslim leaders in Marawi City. *With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Juliet Javellana and AP*

'Couples' no longer for Gloria

(From page A1)

"The civil society, I learned, is seriously in search of a replacement . . . there is a head-hunting going on," Paglinawan, an official of the CFC's socio-political ministry, told the INQUIRER.

"Some civil society groups are actively looking for a new president. They are now saying that this one may not last," he added.

But he declined to name the civil society groups, nor say whether CFC was supporting the head hunters. He clarified, however, that CFC's ties with the President has "always been one of critical collaboration."

Not politicized until . . .

The CFC, a Catholic lay organization, had not been actively involved in politics until Estrada's impeachment trial got underway in December, 2000, and the campaign to mount another People Power revolt began last January.

It was one of the first groups to call for Estrada's resignation. The CFC's position forced Science Secretary Filemon Uriarte, a CFC member, to resign from the Estrada Cabinet.

The CFC also ran full-page, anti-Estrada ads in the INQUIRER on Nov. 4 and Nov. 15, 2000, and Jan. 2 and Jan. 18, 2001. The last declared Estrada guilty and called on people to converge at the Edsa Shrine.

Objective: 2004

Now, the CFC appears to be backing off.

According to Paglinawan, "It's becoming obvious now that we have a President who has no vision," he said.

He said that instead of working for the country's interest, the President appears to be obsessed with efforts to ensure that she is reelected president in the next Presidential elections.

"Her plans for 2004, for many of us, appear to be the compelling force" in her governance, he observed. "All her responses to programs have been political in nature, geared towards the direction of 2004. The objective is 2004."

He said the President has been advised by civil society leaders to "junk 2004" and engage in genuine effort to serve the people, but she had reportedly ignored such views.

That is why, he said, the President appears to engage in a continuing effort to court the military to ensure that she has their support all the way to 2004.

To do this, he said the President is even willing to turn a blind eye on the alleged massive human rights abuses the military have allegedly committed in its prolonged war against the Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Basilan.

"It's very obvious that the military has her hostage," he said. "If the Abu Sayyaf is holding government hostage, the military is also keeping the President hostage. That's the irony of it and she cannot move."

According to him, the CFC has been trying to raise the military issue with her, but she reportedly puts it off or advises them to bring it up with her military officials.

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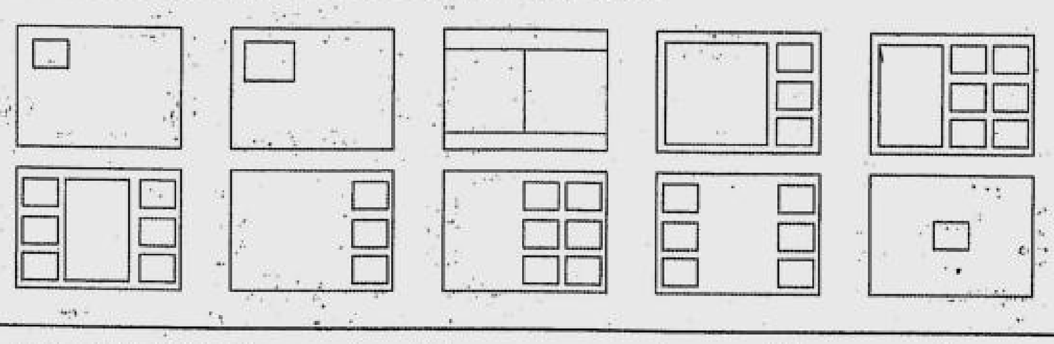

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

RP boxers assured of 3 bronzes

WARSAW—Team Caltex Philippines won three of its six quarterfinal matches Thursday for a decent start in the Feliks Stamm International Boxing Championships at the Sports Hall here. The Filipinos reveled in sure bronze medal victories of Violits Paylan, Roel Laguna and Vincent Palicte, but grieved over the losses of Florencio Ferrer, Harry Tanamor and Romeo Brinhe.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Pagunsans grab U-Bix lead by 6

JUVIC Pagunsan (right) walks on the green of hole No. 1 as father Juanito looks on. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

BY AL S. MENDOZA

SILANG, Cavite—Juanito Pagunsan, a journeyman of many years without a title to his name, found a possible salvation in his son as they grabbed a winnable lead yesterday in the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am here.

With the winds gone after two days of a wind-shaken series at Riviera's tough Langer course, Juanito and Juvic fired a 1-under-par 70 following masterful shots unseen from any of the 120 pairs entered in the first 36 holes of play.

It was the tournament's first sub-par round, giving the Pagunsans a big chance of snagging the biggest chunk from the P1-million pot staked by U-Bix president Bert Bravo.

Adding their earlier 77-74, Juanito and Juvic totaled 221, 8-over-par but 6 big shots ahead of their closest pursuers in the event supported by DHL Philippines, Pagcor, San Miguel Beer, Pacific Grove Tagaytay Residential Estates and Mizuno.

"*Gumanda ang laro dahil walang hangin ngayon* (We played well today because it wasn't windy)," said Juanito, who could win his first major should he and son survive the challenge of their closest pursuers in today's final round.

Noli Kempis and Don Erwin Vinluan had another 74 to stay behind at second with 227, six shots off the Pagunsans in a tie with ousted leaders Edgar Ababa and Marvin Dumandan.

Ababa and Dumandan lost their grip of the lead with a 77 in the fabled classic that stakes a Toyota Altis 1.8 liter as a hole-in-one prize on 17, courtesy of Toyota Motor Philippines.

Alone at 229 eight shots behind were Armando Eso and Neil Catalan, who had a 73, and then came the tandems of Vivencio Lascuna and Jay Bayron (75) and Felix Fernando and Marlon Dizon, who scored the tournament's first par-71 for identical 230s, 9 strokes off the pace.

The Pagunsans displayed toughness under calm conditions, firing three birdies after bucking two three-putt, front-nine bogeys.

"Focus *lang ang sekreto* (Focus was the secret)," said Juvic. "Focus pa rin ang kailangan bukas para manalo (It's the same focus that we should need to win tomorrow.)"

The 48-year-old Juanito gunned down 6-foot birdies on 15 and 16 on superb wedge shots from 90 and below yards by the 23-year-old Juvic, the gold medalist in the last SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur.

The other birdie came on No. 4 from 8 feet before three-putting—both from 25 feet—Nos. 5 and 9 for their only miscues in an eventful day that saw two teams getting disqualified for signing wrong scorecards.

Other scores:

231—G. Rosales-D. Pizarro 78-77-76, M. Pucay-J. Roy 78-73-80.
232—J. Casas-J. Saragoza 77-81-74.
233—W.Superal-J. Delariarte 73-83-75,M. Manubay—A.Asistio 78-80-75.
234—J.Cedo-J. Rocha 78-82-77.
235—E. Estrera-J. Buencamino 8080-75, T. Lascuna-T. Escano 80-77-78.
236—A. Balan-J. Gironella 79-81-76, R. Gaviola-J. Laput 84-76-76, R. Ardimer-S.Gines 82-76-76.
237—R. Minoza-B. Minoza 78-83-76, E. Salvador-A. Escalona 79-80-78, R.Arcillas-E. Arcillas 79-79-79.
238-B. Lopez-J. Plana 81-80-77, A. Cruz-M. Bakunawa 79-80-79,J. Choi-Seung 77-85-76, R. Brobio-A. Brizuela 80-76-82.
239—E. Sanchez-B. Inigo 82-77-80, M.Siodina-I. Clavecilla 75-83-81.
240—G. Cantada-E. Lopez 73-84-83, R. Janaya-A. Que 80-82-78.

For all ages

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SOMEONE wrote to say golf is only for the old. Of course not. How many times has it been said that golf is for all ages? A two-year-old can play it. A 102-year-old can play it.

Certainly, Tiger Woods isn't old at 25 (he will turn 26 on Dec. 30). He earns no less than $1 million by simply arriving in a tournament where he is invited to play. In China just some days back, he was paid $2 million for a weekend with Chinese kids wanting to learn to play golf.

I'm sure the writer doesn't play golf. A golfer will never say such a stupid thing.

Non-golfers have the tendency to badmouth golf. Can't blame them. They know nothing about golf. Or, if they claim to know something about golf, the scant knowledge they know they consider it a trove of golf knowledge already. Of course, they fool only themselves. Willingly, that is.

Was it Chairman Mao who said, "No investigation, no right to speak."

People who deride golf are ignorant of the game. They don't deserve our attention. You debate with them and you'll end up a fool yourself, as in The Beatles' *Fool on the Hill.* Sang melodiously, of course, by Paul McCartney.

■

When the 240 or so competitors of the U-Bix Riviera National Pro-Am have all gone home after today's awarding ceremonies at the cute Riviera clubhouse in Silang, Cavite, they will surely treasure fond memories of the classic's revival.

One notable pair from the record field of 120 tandems worth mentioning here is that of Mary Grace Estuesta and Vic Sotto.

When told they made history by being the first duo that had a lady pro (Estuesta) competing in the fabled event that is now on its 38th staging, Vic, a celebrated comedian whose love for swanky cars is rivalled only by his love for golf, said: "Nice to know that. Am honored, indeed."

Said Mary Grace: "Next year, we will prepare hard for this tournament."

The first lady golfer who played in the one-ball, two-some event was Sonia Tugot, the amateur daughter partner of the legendary, six-time Philippine Open champion Tino Tugot. That was in the '70s. Sonia now lives in America. Tino spends much of his time now in his native Bukidnon by the beauteous Del Monte Golf Club.

■

One thing I relish being with each time I'm covering a golf tournament is my "Insan" Taby M. Tabaniag, a revered golf rulesman. Yesterday, I had goat "kaldereta" for lunch in the company of Taby—"kalderetang kambing" being Insan's favorite.

"*Pampahaba ng buhay* (for long life)," said Taby of the viand.

You gotta believe him. Taby just turned 82—and he looks (and moves) like a 50-year-old Makati executive.

Many more birthdays to come, Insan.

RP Cuppers slip to 22nd; New Zealanders on top

BY JONG ARCANO

ZARATE

GOTEMBA, Japan—An opening hole bogey set the tone for a day of struggle for Danny Zarate and Rodrigo Cuello as the Philippine duo slumped to a three-over-par 75 yesterday and slid to a tie for 22nd place after Round 2 of the EMC World Cup of Golf here.

With a virtual sea of 30,000 spectators watching him on the first tee, Cuello sent the RP pair's first drive in the alternate shots format into the clump of trees that started their front nine miseries.

Cuello and Zarate were already seeing red with a 5-over-card through 12 holes until Cuello approached to within two feet on the 13th for a tap-in birdie and Zarate gave his team a blast-in birdie to cheer about on the 16th.

An even more disastrous effort by Malaysia (80-146) saved the Philippines from occupying last place and the Filipinos ended the halfway mark tried with Holland at 142 in a big nosedive from their fighting opening effort of 67 on Thursday.

Michael Campbell and David Ismail of New Zealand stepped up their assault at the Taiheyo Gotemba course with a 66 for a 129 total that was four strokes better than the 133 of Toshimitsu Izawa and Shikei Maruyama of the host country and Scotland's Andrew Coltart and Dean Robertson.

The United States' Tiger Woods and David Duval made their big move with a 68 that pushed them up to joint fourth with Spain and Denmark.

Ginebra forces KO match; San Mig ousts Talk N Text

BY JUNE NAVARRO

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4:05 p.m.—Red Bull vs Sta. Lucia
6:10 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Alaska

BEATING higher-ranked teams in the quarterfinals is fast becoming a habit for Barangay Ginebra.

Since the playoff format was introduced in 1999, the Kings have proven twice that they can advance to the semifinals even without the leverage of a twice-to-beat advantage.

Last night was no different as the eighth-seeded Kings closed in on another caper when they routed top quarterfinalist Shell, 97-75 to force a rubber match in the quarterfinals of the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

The Kings did the trick of eliminating their well-situated opponents twice—in this year's All-Filipino Cup against No. 4 Purefoods and in the 1999 All-Filipino Cup against top seed Mobiline.

San Miguel Beer eliminated Talk N Text, 77-63 , later in the night to book a semifinals ticket. The Beermen will face the winner between Shell and Barangay Ginebra in the semifinals.

Scores:

GINEBRA 97—Limpot 21, Wells 17, Caguioa 17, Lago 15, Meneses 10, Helterbrand 5, Calpito 4, David 3, Magtulis 3, Basco 2, Piodo 0.

SHELL 75—Jones 32, Esplana 14, Wainwright 8, Hrabak 7, Marzan 4, Telan 3, Dela Cruz 3, Jackson 2, Del Rosario 2. Quarters: 27-11, 48-34, 63-56, 97-75.

Cebu, Laguna cop No. 2 slot

GAMES TOMORROW
Araullo Gym (Cabanatuan City)
3 p.m.—San Juan vs Nueva Ecija
(USLS Bacolod) 5:30 p.m.—Batangas vs Negros

THE CEBUANA Lhuillier Gems can still sparkle when challenged.

Their backs against the wall, the Gems built a huge lead and used it as a cushion to stun the LBC Batangas Blades, 91-84, yesterday and grab the No. 2 qualifying slot in the Southern Conference of the MBA Second Phase at the Cebu City Coliseum.

Powered by Stephen Padilla and Homer Se, the Gems pulled away by 22 points in the first half, were still ahead by 20 in the third quarter, but had to hang tough in the wake of the Blades' rally in the last two minutes.

Back-to-back Blitz 3s by Chucho Serrano and Romel Adducul suddenly pushed the Blades within striking distance at 86-82 with still 1 minute and 37 seconds left. Carlos Sayon, however, responded with a short jumper and Padilla sealed the victory with two freethrows following a Serrano fumble.

The Gems thus halted their four-game skid and with a 5-9 record ending the elimination round gained the homecourt edge in their best-of-three semifinal series with the TPG Davao Eagles (4-9).

FedEx Laguna bested Andok's San Juan, 101-94, at the San Luis Sports Complex to assure itself of the No. 2 berth and the homecourt advantage in the Southern Conference semifinals The Lakers posted their eighth straight win and rose to 11-3, out of reach of the Knights (8-5).

Roy Luarca

Delasin 7 shots down; Webb 1 stroke ahead

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida—Karrie Webb made five birdies on the back nine, the last one after hitting a 5-iron from an awkward lie in the rough to 1.2 meters (4 feet), for a 5-under 67 Thursday on windy Trump International and a one-stroke lead over Annika Sorenstam at the LPGA Tour Championship.

The lead might have been one shot larger, but Sorenstam followed Webb's shot on the 18th with a 7-iron that grazed the cup and stopped 50 centimeters (20 inches) away for birdie.

Filipina Dorothy Delasin was seven strokes back after firing a 74 (37-37).

"We bring out the best in each other," Webb said. "We were both spurring each other on at the end."

Meg Mallon, Grace Park, Marisa Baena and Wendy Doolan each had a 69.

Webb and Sorenstam, playing in the final group as the top two players on the money list in the 30-player field, made birdie on the same hole five times and even chopped up the same hole at the end of the round.

Webb finally caught Sorenstam with three straight birdies to get to 5 under when they came to the par-3 17th, a 151-meter (166-yard) hole with a waterfall behind the green.

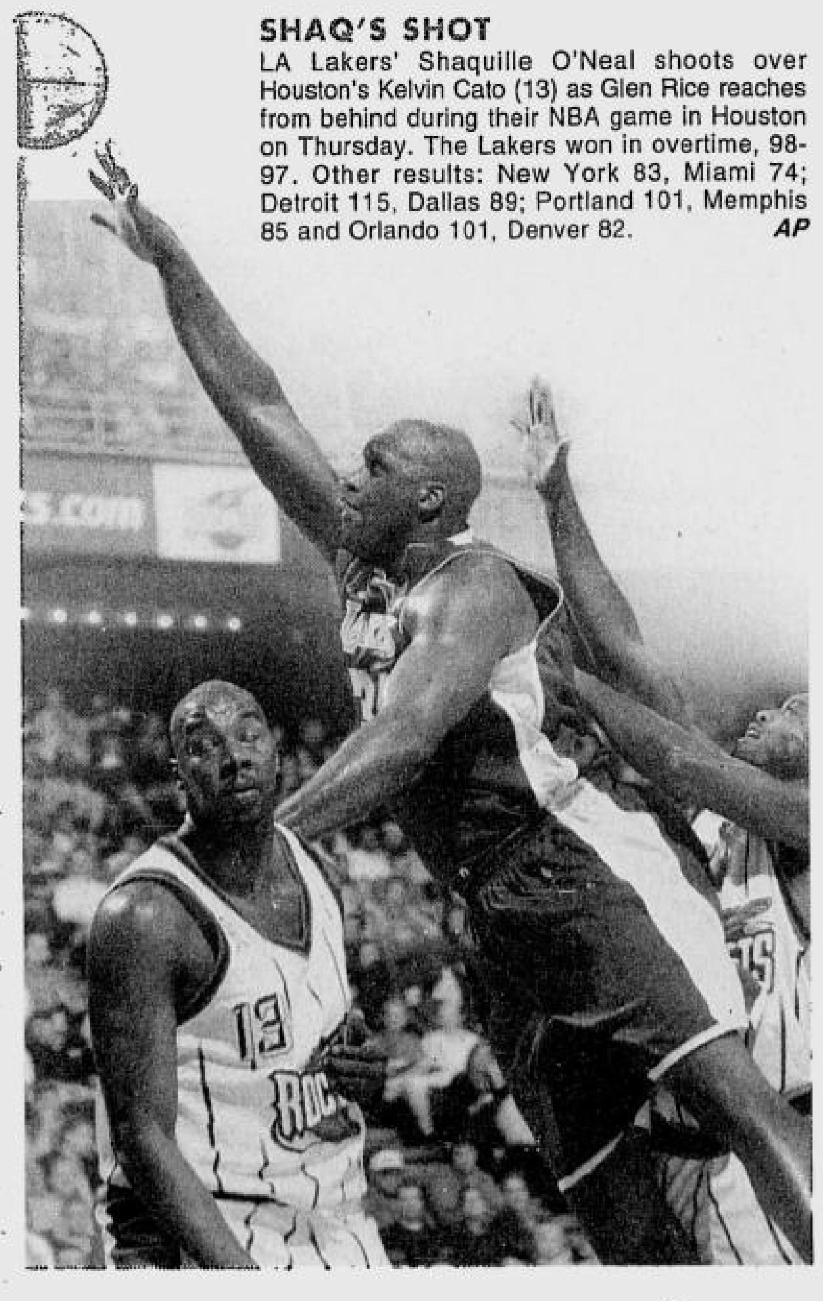
Sorenstam hit into the water and took double bogey. Webb left herself a 15-meter (50-foot) putt and took three strokes to get down, making bogey.

"I was very upset on 17 for many reasons. I had played so well all day," Sorenstam said. "I wasn't really concerned with what Karrie was doing. I just knew if I finished with a birdie it would probably cool me down."

PBL today

GAMES TODAY
2 p.m.—Kutitap Toothpaste vs ICTSI-La Salle
4 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs Ana Freezers

ICTSI-LA Salle eyes its second straight win, while Ateneo-Pioneer hopes to bounce back when it collides with Ana Freezers today in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum. Despite upstaging the Freezer Kings, 75-68, last Thursday, the Archers remain underdogs against Kutitap at 2 p.m.



SHAQ'S SHOT

LA Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal shoots over Houston's Kelvin Cato (13) as Glen Rice reaches from behind during their NBA game in Houston on Thursday. The Lakers won in overtime, 98-97. Other results: New York 83, Miami 74; Detroit 115, Dallas 89; Portland 101, Memphis 85 and Orlando 101, Denver 82. *AP*

Frankie in truck racing

ASIDE from golf, not too many people know that Frankie Miñoza is also into big trucks and 4 x 4 off-road racing.

Miñoza, who owns a big truck named as "Fore," will be one of the featured 4x4 drivers in the forthcoming 1st Philippine Tough Truck Challenge set Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The event, organized by the Manila Off-Roaders Inc., is expected to be the biggest convergence of sports truck enthusiasts in the country.

It is being held in cooperation with the National Association of Filipino Off-Roaders Inc. which boasts of over 20 affiliate clubs all over the country.

The tough off-road action, initially sponsored by Ride, 199 Off Road House and Premiere Ready Mix, is not just a battle of speed but actually more of teamwork.

Interested participants may call up MORI president Brian Diaz at tel. nos. 711-2026, 711-2127 or 711-2162.

Tuason in US; Garcia taking charge

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

WHILE Philippine sports is in disarray, the top officials of the land are conveniently far away in the United States.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason flies to San Francisco today, while Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit is already in New York for various reasons.

Tuason claimed that he's taking his annual vacation from Nov. 17 to 30 to have his medical check up and visit his granddaughter, while Dayrit is attending an International Olympic Committee convention.

Meanwhile, the PSC is left to the hands of commissioner Richie Garcia, who will carry out the orders of President Arroyo regarding the demands of the disgruntled Athletes and Coaches Alliance of the Philippines.

However, sources said Tuason will also join the President who is on a 12-day state visit to America. Tuason was also with Ms Arroyo in her state visit to Beijing, China.

Tuason hoped he was able to console the Acap members following their four-hour meeting Thursday where he promised to raise the salaries, improve the food services, fire foreign coaches and repair the athletes' quarters.

But Acap president Jaime Sebastian said the group remains skeptical until they see concrete results. Moreover, they demand swift action from the PSC or else they will again call the attention of President Arroyo, Sebastian said.

Over at the POC, several national sports associations with leadership problems are lobbying for a revamp of the POC arbitration committee which they claimed to have "lost its integrity."

Associations in weightlifting, pencak silat and cycling aired their grievances against POC arbitration committee head Claudio Altura (sailing), whom they claimed is incapable of handling their concerns as seen in his judgment during the protracted rift in basketball.

Instead, they are pushing for taekwondo's Robert Aventajado to take over the arbitration body. The three NSAs, plus karatedo, are hobbling through factions within the associations.

Dayrit earlier said the POC has yet to receive communications from these NSAs before actions can be taken.

Breeders' Cup goes full blast today

BY EDWIN VILLANUEVA

AFTER giving racing fans the appetizer for three nights, the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners is now ready to serve the main fare.

Action in the 6th San Miguel Beer-Marho Breeders' Cup Championships goes full blast today when three of the six major races unfold at the Santa Ana Park.

Set to be flagged off are the Juvenile Fillies, Juvenile Colts and Sprint where Golden Ballet, Baccarat and Be Quiet are expected to be sent away as favorites, respectively.

Each race carries a total pot of P1 million, P600,000 of which goes to the first placers:

"The moment of truth for this year's Breeders' Cup Championships begins today. I'm inviting all racing fans to come and see this momentous affair. This event is for the *bayang kareristas*," said Marho President Aristeo "Putch" Puyat.

Puyat and fellow sportsman-businessman Sandy Javier (Marho chair), as well as other Marho officials and members, are expected to grace the affair which is also backed by Pagcor, PCSO, Philracom and host Philippine Racing Club.

"*Magsama-sama na po tayo sa* Santa Ana *at panoorin ang* Marho Breeders' Cup this weekend," said Javier.

Golden Ballet, businessman Jun Almeda's bay wonder, heads the Juvenile Fillies field as she guns for a fifth straight victory against seven other rivals in the 1,500-meter race.

"She's in tip-top shape. I hope she wins again," said Almeda of Golden Ballet, a filly by Treasure Cay out of Likeable Style, whom he named after the ballet outfit of daughters Kaye and Anika.

In the Juvenile Colts, attention has been shifted to Baccarat in the absence of Mighty Strong. Impressive in his last outing, Baccarat battles six others over 1,500 meters and will have "El Maestro" Jesus Guce as partner.

The Sprint (900 meters) caps today's Big Three with Be Quiet, dubbed "the horse nobody wanted," getting the tipsters' nod as first pick.

Tomorrow, all eyes will be on super horse Wind Blown, Batangas Entry and Ilocandia Slew as the five-day racing festival comes to a close.

Wind Blown, owned by sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra, is the overwhelming choice to rule the Classic (2,050 meters), while Paolo Mendoza's Batangas Entry and Myther Bunag's Ilocandia Slew are given the edge to win the Three-Year-Old Colts (one mile) and Three-Year-Old Fillies (one mile), respectively.

PUYAT

JAVIER

ESGUERRA

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Juan Marco 2. Companero 3. Eyewitness 4. Gangway 5. Heading West/ Well Noted

Race 2—1. Inside Treasure 2. Kontra Todo 3. Dedicated 4. Lady Blaster 5. Rock's Dragon

Race 3—1. Guguy's Legacy 2. Maximo 3. Walang Hanggan 4. Taksmania 5. Rio Rossa

Race 4—1. Men of Honor 2. Fine Offer 3. Born Perfect 4. Counter Strike 5. The Muse

Race 5—1. Golden Ballet 2. Rosewood 3. What A Spell 4. Tigra 5. Security Risk

Race 6—1. Celebration 2. Exchange Deal 3. Man of the Hour 4. Gifted Galloper 5. Letshaveaparty

Race 7—1. The Warrior 2. Rumaragasa

Race 8—1. Baccarat 2. Bidang Bida 3. River Bee 4. Al Baraq

Race 9—1. Field Master 2. Always Florence 3. Real McCoy 4. Winged Wonder

Race 10—1. Gold Honors 2. Rapid Strike 3. Super Dancer 4. Ahoy There 5. Palago

Race 11—1. Hazmoore 2. Be Quiet 3. Charisma

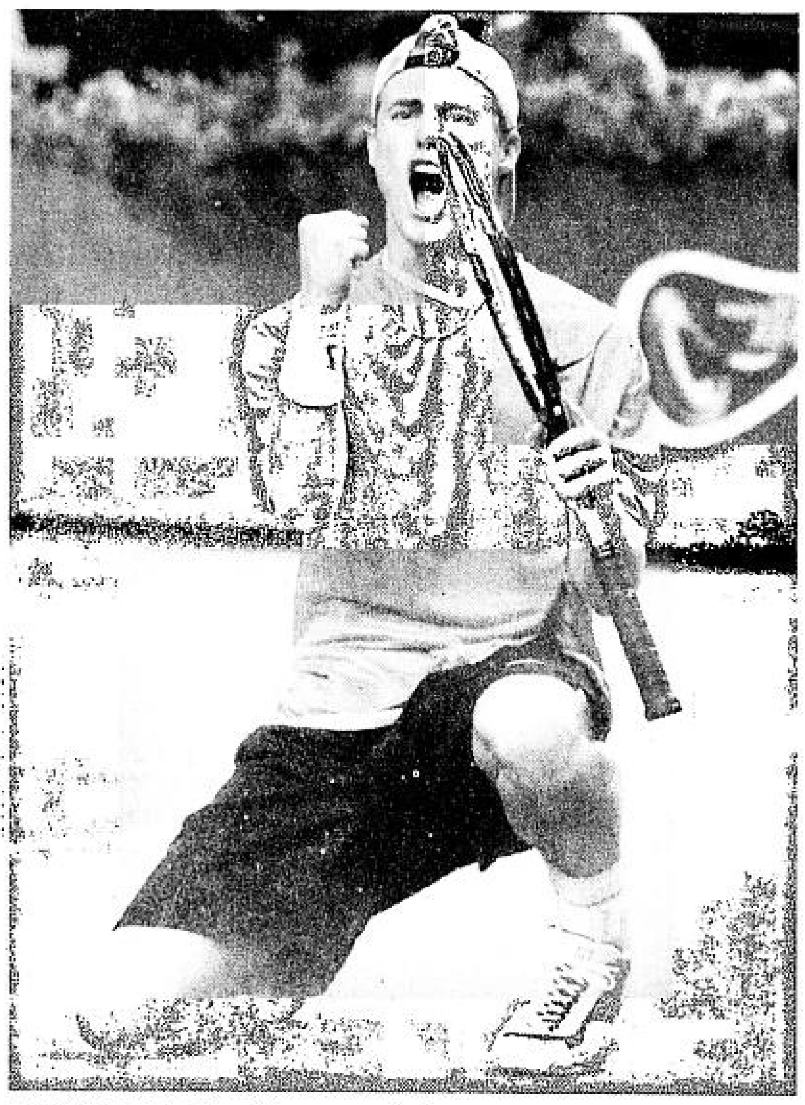
Race 12—1. Sweet Topic 2. Playing With Fire 3. Ohayo Gozaimas 4. Pep Talk 5. Kingair

Race 13—1. Kitty Hawk 2. Aim and Fire 3. Gemstone

Race 14—1. Jhelen 2. Vice on Ice 3. Thunder Speed 4. Profit Margin 5. Win More 6. Banahaw Blues

Race 15—1. Snake Prince 2. Gossip Column 3. Hinobaan's Pride 4. El Magnifico 5. Ayos Ba There 6. Rain Check

Arevalo vs India netter


HEWITT celebrates victory over Rafter. REUTERS

CZARINA Mae Arevalo posted a 6-1, 7-5 upset win over second seed Shruti Dhawan of India yesterday to enter the women's singles final of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor courts.

Arevalo, the country's No. 1 female netter, will shoot for the title against third seed Sonal Phadke of India at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

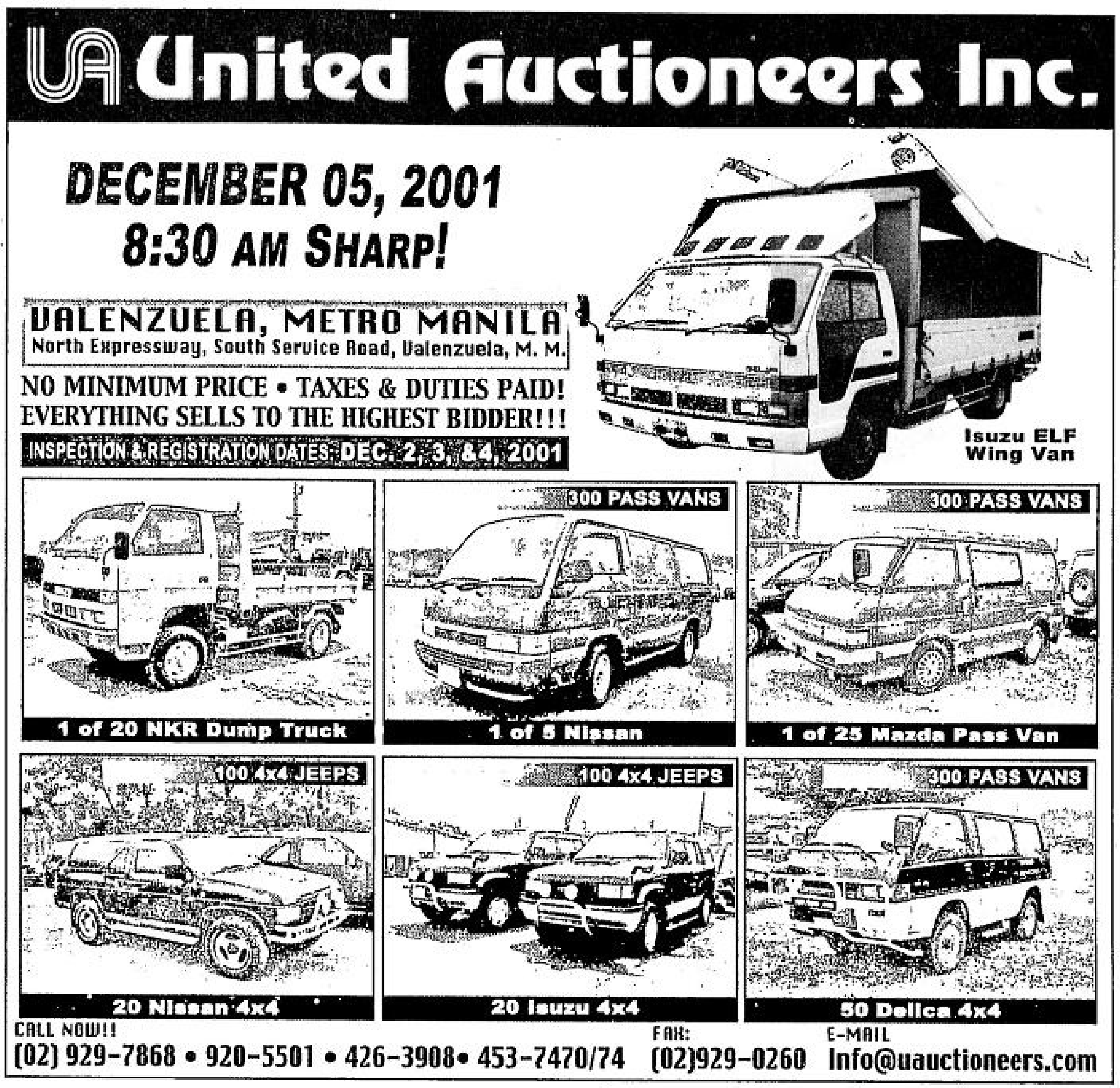
Phadke, currently ranked No. 7 in India, scored a 6-2, 6-1 reversal over top seed Radhika Tulpule in the other semifinal match.

"I don't want to be overconfident. I'll just do my best," said Arevalo, who eliminated No. 4 Radhika Manke in the quarterfinals.

Arevalo, a high school junior at Angelicum School in Quezon City, fired three aces to easily win the first set but found herself in trouble when she trailed 1-4 in the second set due to error.

Still, Arevalo did not give up. The Ilocos Norte-born netter fought back to tie the count at 4-all.

Phadke said she expects a tough match against Arevalo. "I'll just try to stay focused."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Hewitt becomes youngest No. 1

SYDNEY, Australia—Lleyton Hewitt will be the youngest man to finish the year at No. 1 after guaranteeing the top ranking Friday with a 7-5, 6-2 win over fellow Australian Patrick Rafter at the season-ending Tennis Masters Cup.

Hewitt, 20 years and eight months, overhauled Champions Race leader Gustavo Kuerten in the last round-robin match at Sydney's SuperDome to move into the No. 1 position.

The win increased his Champions Race total to 783 points. Kuerten lost all three matches in Sydney and failed to add to his 771 points.

Jimmy Connors had been the youngest player to achieve the year-end No. 1 ranking at 22 years and three months in 1974, the year after computerized rankings were introduced.

"To do it at the age of 20 and to do it in Australia is a dream," Hewitt said. "It's an unbelievable feeling - everything has gone my way this week with all the match ups."

Hewitt will meet Juan Carlos Ferrero in a semifinal on Saturday. Yevgeny Kafelnikov will play Sebastien Grosjean in the other semifinal match.

The US Open champion went into the tournament trailing Kuerten by 48 points. He earned 20 points for each of his round-robin wins against Grosjean, No. 3 Andre Agassi and Rafter.

Kuerten and Agassi, the only players in the eight-man draw with any chance of finishing at No. 1, both contributed to Hewitt's elevation to No. 1 by failing to reach the semifinals.

Kuerten, who secured the No. 1 ranking with his win last year at the Masters Cup in Portugal, limped out of the tournament and just about handed Hewitt top spot. *AP*

RP jin sparkles in world tourney

VETERAN internationalist Roberto Cruz of the Petron Philippine taekwondo team sparkled anew by bagging the finweight bronze medal in the recent 15th world taekwondo championships held at the Halla gymnasium in Jeju City, South Korea.

Winner of six consecutive Southeast Asian Games gold medals since 1991, Cruz hurdled his taller rivals in the elimination rounds and quarterfinals but fell to eventual champion Choi of Korea, 3-6, in the semifinals.

CRUZ

Cruz opened his bid with an impressive 8-1 victory over Romania's Lazar. Then he toppled Thailand's Panprom, 7-4, and Greece's Zikos, 7-2, before subduing Cariada's Roy, 3-1, in the quarterfinals.

Two over members of the Petron RP squad–flyweight Tshomlee Go and flyweight Eva Marie Ditan–reached the quarterfinals of the tourney which drew the best taekwondojins from'94 countries.

Go beat Greece's Gouroufidis, 6-4, Chinese-Taipei's Huang, 7-5, and Puerto Rico's Licier, 12-8, in the preliminaries but lost to eventual gold medalist Kanjobeh of Iran, 4-7.

Ditan ousted Belgium's Peeters, 8-3, and France's Oliveros, 13-1, before dropping a close 2-4 decision to Venezuela's Contreras in the quarterfinals.

"The team performed well considering the tough field," noted delegation head Sung Chong Hong. The other officials–team manager Dr. Noli Gabriel and coaches Noel Veneracion and Jobet Morales–echoed Hong's view.

The other RP campaigners were Jefferthom Go and Jasmin Strachan, bantamweight; Daleen Cordero, flyweight; Veronica Domingo and Alex Briones, lightweight; Sally Solis and Mark Rivero, welterweight; Kalindi Tamayo, featherweight; and Margarita Bonifacio, middleweight.

Plaza entry wins

THE UNHERALDED Surefire DGP entry of Agusan Sur gamefowl breeder Boyet Plaza emerged as one of three champions in the second LGBA 6-Stag Derby at Mandaluyong Coliseum Thursday night, after posting five wins and one loss.

Plaza, who fielded the rare Joe Goode and Radio YLH, actually lost his first fight but went on to annihilate the opponents with five straight spectacular wins.

Co-champions lawyer Joey Mendoza of Rizal (Tagapo Farm) utilized his island-born fighters from Talim Island and Mike Buendia of Batangas (Buenas Dias) fielded the J. de Jesus battlecross.

The LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year winner will finally be known next Tuesday and Thursday (Nov. 20 and 22) as the third LGBA 6-Stag Derby blasts off.

Mendoza's Tagapo Farm is the new leader with 10.5 points followed by Biboy Enriquez (Ucap March 19-21), Buendia (Buenas Dias), Wilson Go and Gil Nicolas (632 Gamefarm) and engineer Jun Sevilla (JRS Spectrum) who have 10 points each.

Roligon hosts 2-cock derby

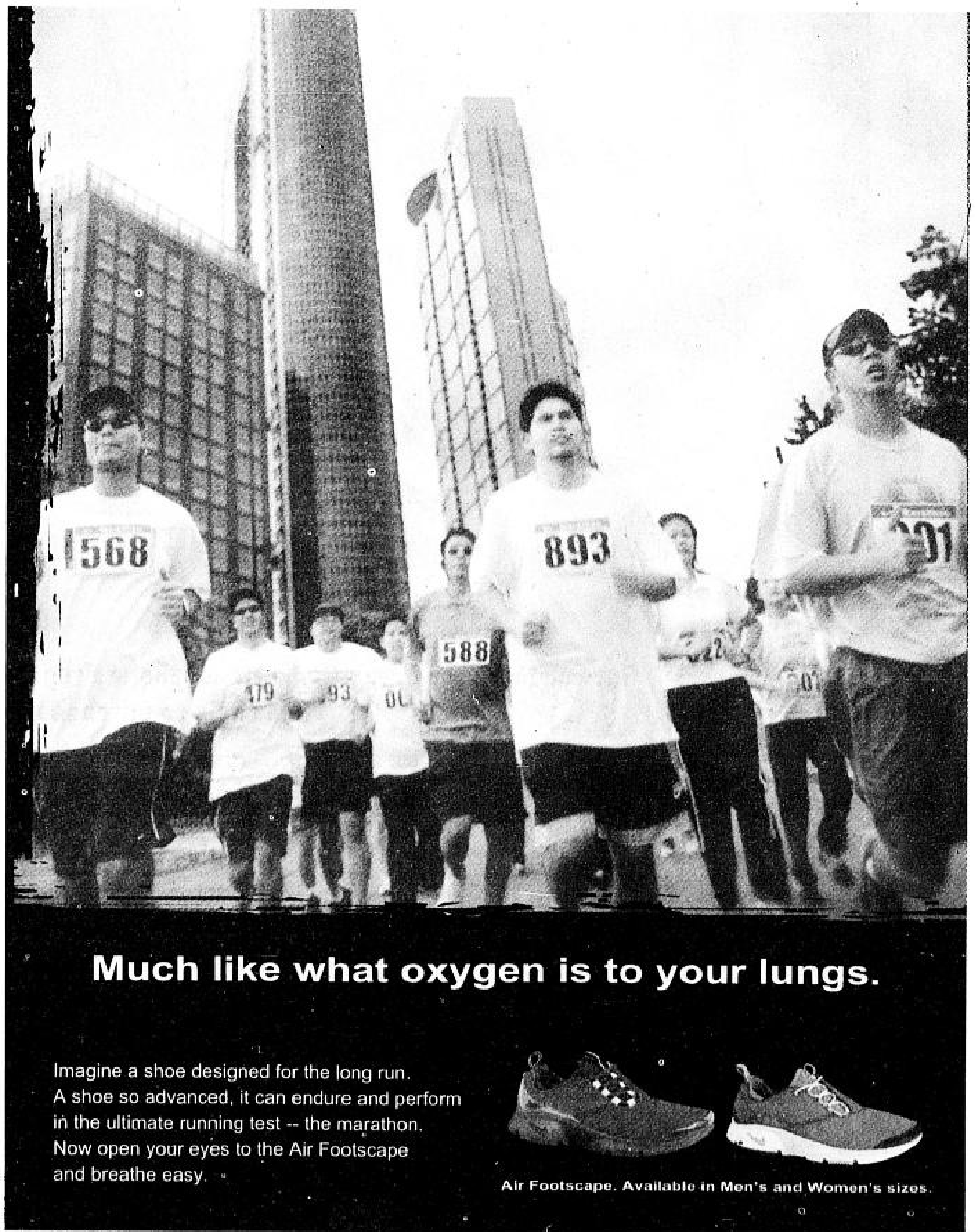
A 2-Cock "ulutan" will be presented again at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Paranque City tomorrow, Nov. 18.

Hosted by ASF & Co., this unique format of cockfighting has a guaranteed prize of P35,000 for a registration fee of P1,100 and a minimum bet of P2,200.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said that a bonus of P10,000 will be divided among the winners in the last round. This is aside from the cash bonus of P500 per win from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ty said that the "ulutan" will start at exactly 1 p.m.

For inquiries and cockhouse reservation call tel nos. 833-2275 or 833-1638.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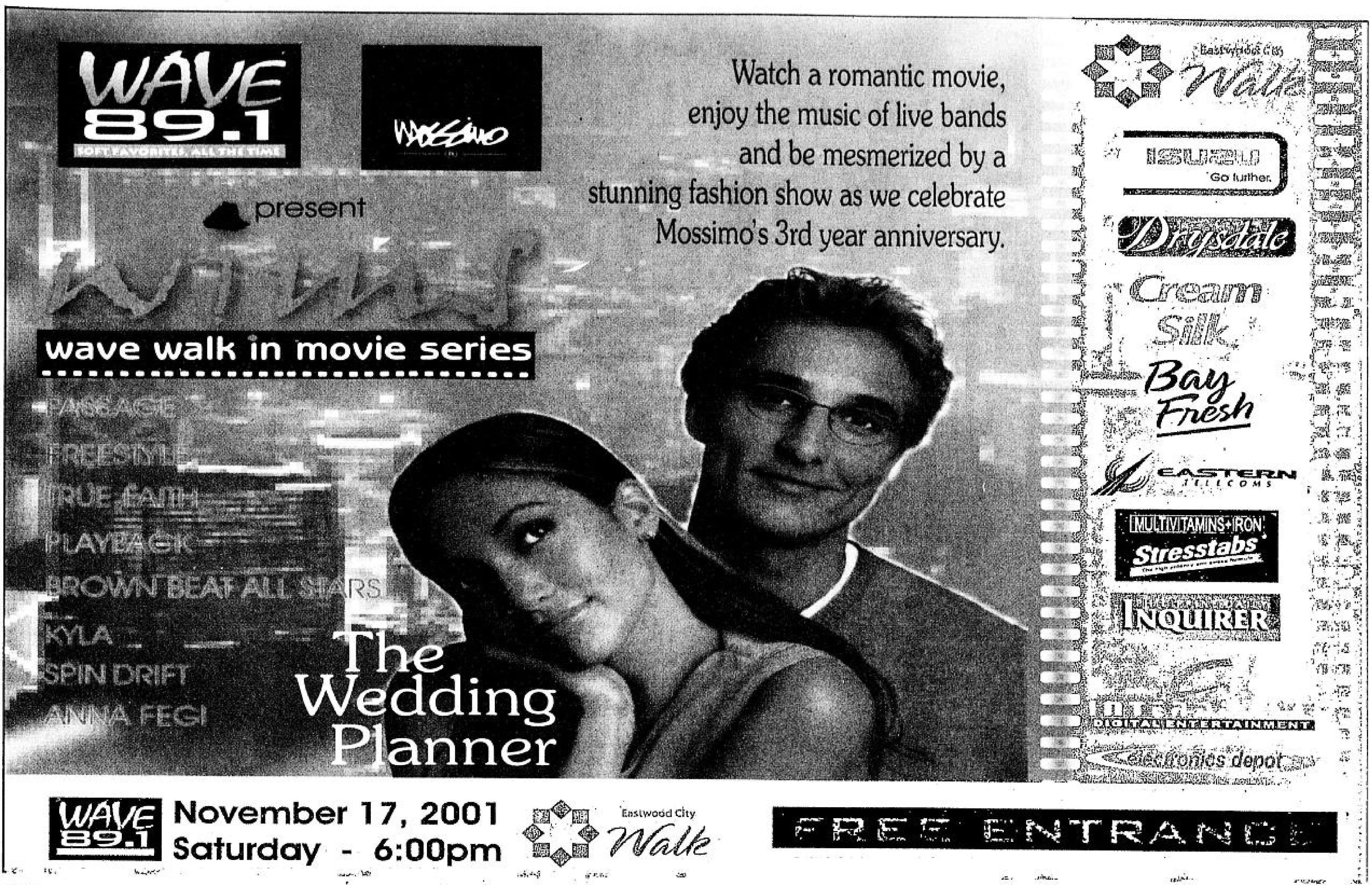

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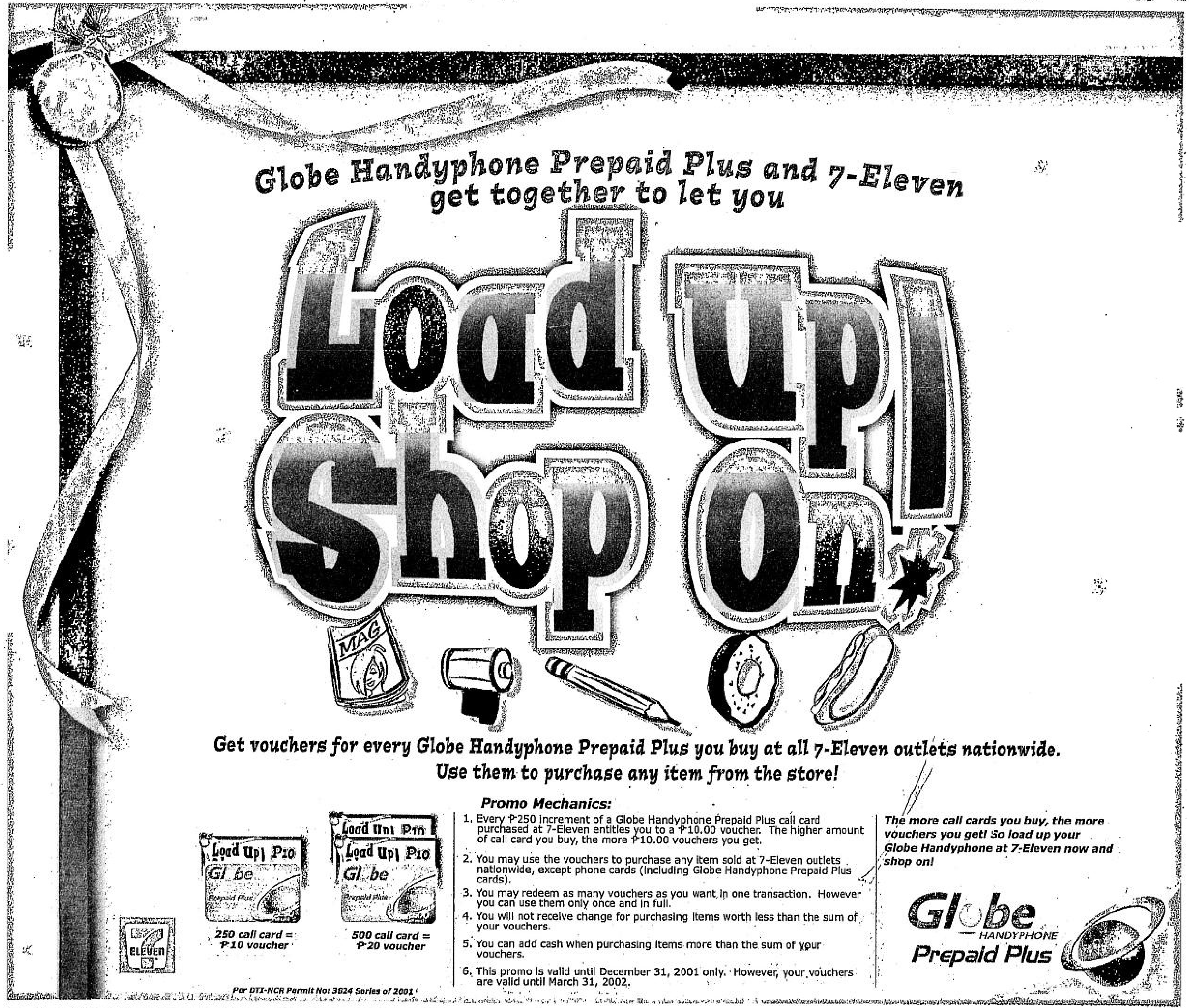

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METRO
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

It's Pasig River, not Pasig City A26

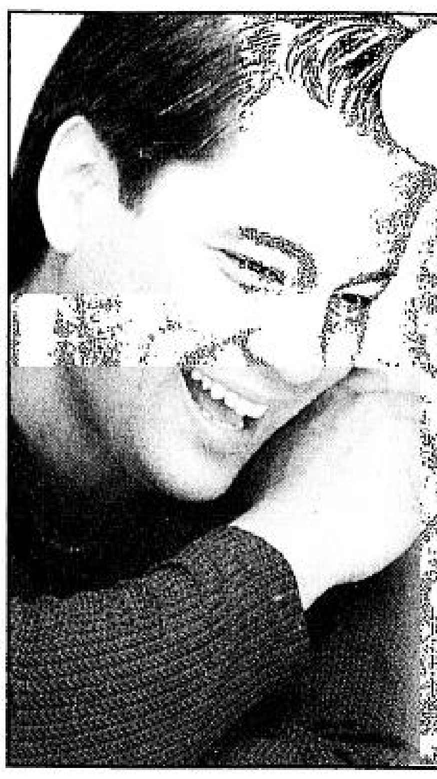
Policeman nabbed for Valerio slay

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested the principal suspect in the murder of Chief Government Corporate Counsel Jun Valerio last year.

SPO1 Antonio E. Cabador Jr., alias Jimmy Lagro, a former member of the Western Police District, was arrested after a shootout with agents

POLICEMAN/ A26



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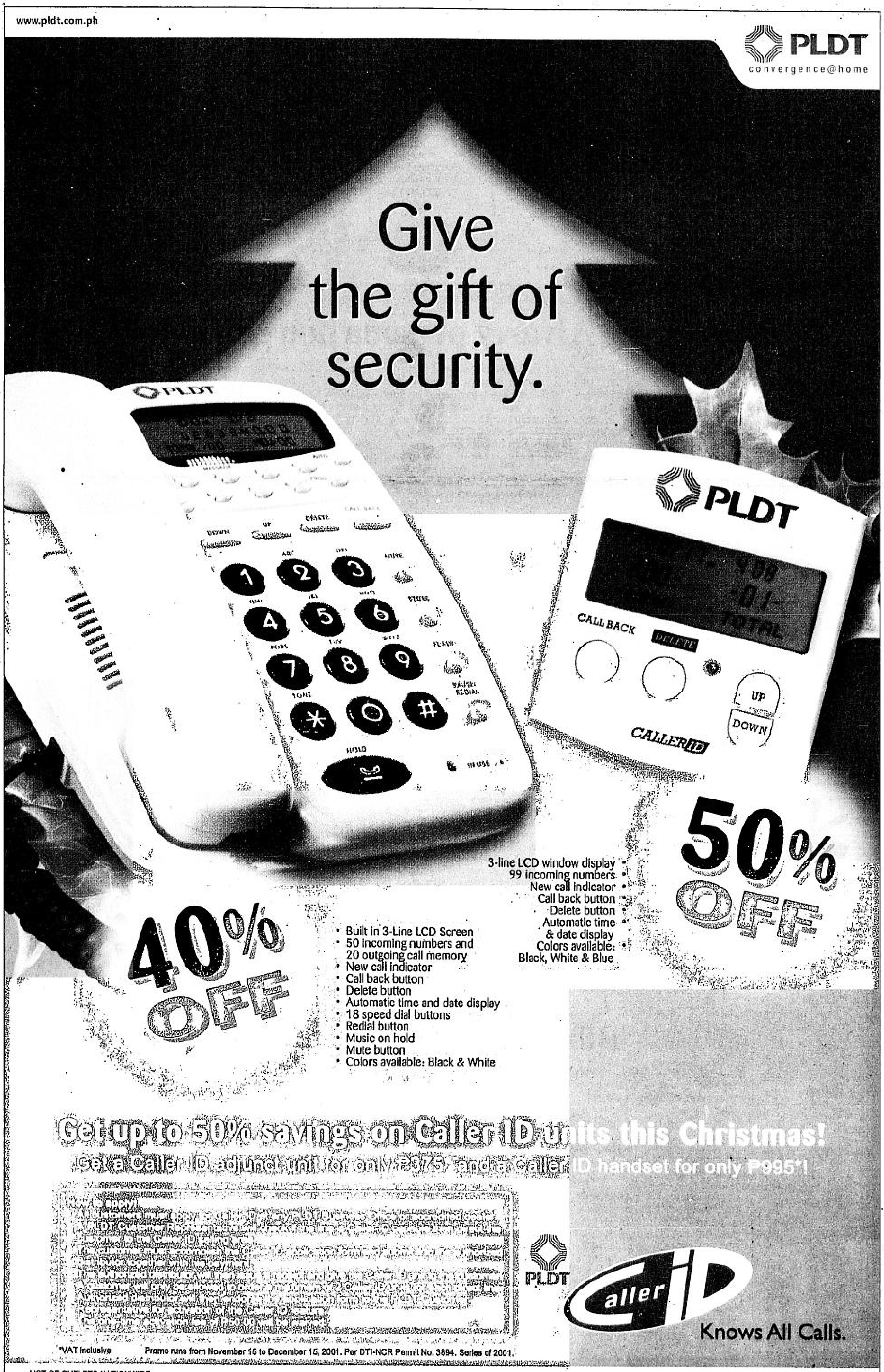

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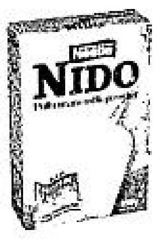

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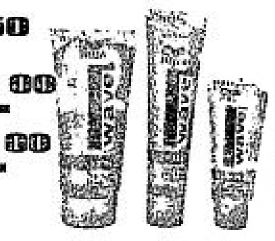

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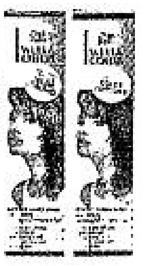

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Policeman nabbed for Valerio slay

(From page A25)

in Tangub City last week, said NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Cabador was shot in different parts of the body and is now confined at the Northern Mindanao Medical Center, Wycoco said.

Valerio was shot dead on March 17 last year as he was about to enter the gate of his house on Mapangakit Street, Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City.

Cabador was said to be the lover of Valerio's widow, Milagros, and had allegedly planned Valerio's killing with the help of Samuel Baran, Martin Jimenez and Geronimo S. Quintana.

Baran, Jimenez and Quintana were arrested on May 12 last year, Wycoco said.

NBI Northern Mindanao Regional Office (Nemro) chief Jose A. Limmayog arrested Cabador on the basis of a warrant of arrest from Quezon City Judge Jaime N. Salazar of the National Capital Judicial Region, Wycoco said.

He said the NBI received a tip that Cabador was hiding in Tangub City. On Nov. 8, NBI agents and local policemen tried to arrest Cabador, who usually went out of his house at Purok 1, Barangay Silanga, Tangub City between 9 and 11 a.m. But Cabador stayed home on that day.

NBI agents then surrounded his house and ordered him to come out and surrender peacefully, Wycoco said. Instead of surrendering, Cabador opened fired at the authorities, triggering the shootout, Wycoco said.

Cabador only surrendered after he was hit in the shootout, Wycoco said.

Authorities found on Cabador a .45 pistol. They also brought him to a nearby hospital for treatment, but he was later transferred to a hospital in Cagayan de Oro City, Wycoco said.

It's Pasig River, not Pasig City

By Christine Gaylican and TJ Burgonio

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources has clarified that it would recommend a reclamation site near at the mouth of the Pasig River and not in Pasig City as earlier reported as the new site for the oil depots in Pandacan, Manila.

But Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez said the area has yet to be identified and under whose jurisdiction it would fall. Alvarez said the reclamation area could be in Manila, Pasay or Navotas.

"What I pointed out was an initial study by the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to have the Pandacan oil depots transferred to a 400-hectare offshore reclamation area in Manila Bay, about 5 kilometers from the mouth of the Pasig River, where a 100-hectare depot may be built," Alvarez said on Thursday.

The DENR chief also noted that the agency is taking into consideration the safety of residents living within the vicinity of the proposed site and area's accessibility to the existing pipelines of the oil companies.

The proposed move to the reclamation area also indicated the need to harness a technology that would convert excess garbage into a landfill for the reclamation site, Alvarez said. Further studies will also be conducted to access the feasibility of the proposal, Alvarez added.

The oil companies will also shoulder acquisition of the reclaimed area, Alvarez said.

"This would depend on the capacity of the company to pay for the reclaimed area. There has to be a financing arrangement. I am not in the capacity to discuss the economic arrangement but only the strategic condition," said Alvarez.

Another possible site for the oil depots is a 50-hectare island off the coast of Pampanga where a cargo terminal could also be built, Alvarez said. The site also poses minimum threat to the environment, he added.

But Alvarez maintained that the transfer of the oil terminal facility in Pandacan would take not less than three years as opposed to the six months the Manila City Council has proposed.

Earlier, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza has declared Alvarez persona non grata for interfering in the issue.

Atienza had also threatened not to renew the business licenses and permits of the three big oil firms using the Pandacan depot as storage facility.

"There will be no compromise," Atienza said. "(The depot) has to go in six months because what is at stake here are the lives of Manileños, especially those living in the area."

Yesterday, Alvarez again opposed another Atienza proposal, pushing the use of incinerators to finally solve the garbage crisis in Metro Manila.

In a press conference, Alvarez asked local government officials to stop pushing for incinerators, reminding them that the Clean Air Act has banned incineration, except for processing pathological wastes from hospitals and medical centers.

"We must observe the law," Alvarez stressed.

Alvarez was one of the principal authors of the Clean Air Act. He said incinerators were banned precisely because these had been proven to emit "toxic and carcinogenic fumes."

Caloocan Rep. Edgar Erice has filed a bill seeking to amend the Clean Air Act and lift the ban on incineration to dispose of municipal, bio-medical and hazardous wastes.

Greenpeace Philippines has protested these moves and even accused mayors of wanting to profit from commissions and kickbacks they could earn in building incineration plants.

Alvarez said he doubts that anyone would be willing to invest on an incineration plant, which would cost a huge amount to set up.

MMDA Chair Abalos (left) seems to be closing his eyes to the garbage crisis as he attends a Senate hearing conducted by the committee on environment and natural resources, together with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

JESS YUSON

Declaring Alvarez persona non grata 'too harsh'

By Jerome Aning

"TOO HARSH" was how opposition Manila councilors described the city council when it declared Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez as persona non grata for allegedly blocking the city government's development projects.

Although the minority councilors abstained from voting on a resolution the other day declaring Alvarez as an "undesirable," they voted with the majority in the second resolution calling on the Commission on Appointments to reject Alvarez's appointment as head of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

In Thursday's session, minority floor leader Councilor Don Ramon Bagatsing said the move to declare Alvarez an undesirable was "too harsh."

Earlier, he proposed that the council would be better off to write the President and express their objection to Alvarez's appointment and ask for his transfer to another agency such as the Philippine National Oil Corp.

"Just because the Secretary's views are different from ours does not make him unwelcome," Bagatsing said. "Who knows, he might know something about this issue that we don't know yet."

Opposition councilor Edward Maceda also voiced his concern over how Manila would respond in the future to Alvarez's official acts as DENR head that could affect the city.

"There could be complications, especially since he is the President's alter ego," the fourth district councilor warned. "Are we in effect opposing (her) too?"

Aside from Maceda and Bagatsing, councilors Arlene Koa and Benjamin Asilo also abstained from voting on the first resolution.

The last person the council declared as undesirable was American actress Clare Danes. She was denounced by the councilors for her remarks that Manila is an ugly and dirty city.

Majority floor leader Councilor Marlon Lacson, who formulated the wording of the resolution, accused Alvarez of "ignorance of law and of being anti-people and anti-Manila."

The filing of the resolutions, proposed by councilors Manuel Zarcal and Jhosep Lopez, was triggered by the Secretary's statement the other week that the Pandacan oil depot should be phased out gradually rather than in six months, which the councilors proposed.

The aldermen also enumerated Alvarez's "sins" to the city, like when the DENR chief stopped the construction of the new City College of Manila campus and the multistory parking building on Mehan Garden.

Zarcal said Alvarez's faults were "worse than Danes' because they came from a fellow Filipino."

Councilor Ricardo Isip said the twin resolutions would further strengthen Manila's autonomy, and prove that the city "does not always bend or bow to the national government."

The council's presiding officer, Councilor Alejandro "Kim" Atienza, explained that Alvarez's persona non grata status is a "purely symbolic action" and would not mean that the Secretary would be physically barred from entering the city.

"This just means he is not welcome in our hearts," Atienza said. "The (first) resolution is an expression of the sentiment of the council and it would not have any legal or juridical implication."

The council is expected to approve during its next session an ordinance reclassifying the 30-hectare depot site from an industrial to commercial zone, effectively phasing out the oil facility.

Tabloid reporter killed in freak accident in QC

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

A REPORTER of the tabloid Bulgar, who was covering the Philippine National Police beat in Camp Crame, was killed in a freak road accident in Lagro, Quezon City yesterday morning.

But Central Police District homicide investigators have yet to get a clear picture of how Rodolfo "Rudy" Peralta, 33, of Tanay, Rizal, was killed since no witness had come forward as of 5 p.m. yesterday.

PO3 Edgardo Talacay said that based on the autopsy conducted at the Prime Funeral Services, Peralta appeared to have fallen from a passenger jeepney and landed on his back, splitting open the back of his head, about 11 a.m. in front of the STI College on Regalado Avenue, Fairview.

Talacay said the victim had no other bruises and his clothes were not soiled, which indicated Peralta was not hit or run over by a vehicle as initially believed.

"He must have been hanging on at the back of the jeepney and lost his grip and fell backwards," Talacay told Camp Crame reporters, who rushed to the Fairview General Hospital where Peralta was pronounced dead.

Talacay believed Peralta lost his hold when the jeepney suddenly accelerated.

Talacay said some people working at a canteen across the road saw a jeepney speeding toward Commonwealth Avenue. They also noticed that the vehicles behind the jeepney appeared to be avoiding something on the road.

Then some bystanders reported seeing Peralta sprawled in the middle of the road, still alive but convulsing. The victim was soaked in blood oozing from the back of his head.

Some of Peralta's fellow reporters at Camp Crame recalled that the victim called them up a few minutes before the incident, telling them he would be late for a scheduled press briefing on the Nida Blanca murder case at 11 a.m.

It was learned that Peralta had spent the night at his mother's house in Lagro, which he usually did when it was too late for him to go home to Tanay. Some members of the household said Peralta was rushing to get to Camp Crame and might have been forced to take the ride while he hung on standing up outside the vehicle.

Talacay appealed to Peralta's co-passengers to come forward and shed light on the incident. He said they can call CPD Sector 5 office at 427-2001.

He also appealed to the driver of the jeepney to go to the police and explain what happened.

Benjie Liwanag, reporter of dzBB radio and president of the PNP Press Corps, called on investigators to track down the driver and file appropriate charges against him if his recklessness did cause Peralta's tragic fall.

Liwanag said Peralta's co-passengers would surely have seen the accident and told the driver about it.

"This might be an accident which we all didn't want to happen, but the fact that the driver sped away despite knowing what happened to one of his passengers should warrant the filing of criminal charges," Liwanag said.

Peralta's remains lie at the Phil-Am Homes Chapel on West Avenue, Quezon City. He is survived by his wife Josie and their three children.

Bibit refuses to vacate Subic post

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FORMER Col. Billy Bibit continues to defy orders to step down as customs collector at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Would you believe that Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva has even pleaded with Bibit to move over to the Clark Trade Zone customs house as its chief ?

Villanueva didn't have to do that because it's his prerogative to transfer subordinates. But the customs commissioner did just that because he is afraid of Bibit, whose claim to fame is being a member of the rightist Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM).

* * *

Bibit says he will only allow himself to be transferred to Clark if it is upgraded into a customs port like the Manila South Harbor and Subic Bay Freeport, his present assignment.

Bibit, a former military officer used to obeying orders without question, says he is disobeying orders from his customs superiors because Clark is just a subport. He considers the transfer to Clark a demotion if Clark is not upgraded to a port.

The customs commissioner has asked Godofredo Olores, chief of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS), to go to Subic and convince Bibit to step down.

* * *

Sending Olores to Bibit might put sense into the insubordinate customs collector, as both of them are former military officers. Both have the same alma mater, the Philippine Military Academy (PMA). Olores is senior to Bibit at the PMA being a member of Class 1970; Bibit is from Class 1972.

Villanueva thinks that Bibit might obey his former superior in the military.

It seems that Bibit has forgotten his military manners, which includes obeying orders from superiors without question. His stint at the Bureau of Customs has apparently corrupted him.

Power tends to corrupt, absolute power corrupts absolutely, so goes a saying.

* * *

Villanueva didn't have to placate Bibit. He could invoke his powers as customs chief and fire Bibit for insubordination.

The customs chief could even make use of the bureau's Enforcement and Security Service (formerly the National Customs Police) to force Bibit to step down. The head of this office, Virgilio Danao, is a courageous official who follows orders to the letter.

But Villanueva is trying to avoid a bloody confrontation between Bibit and Danao. Bibit has brought with him to Subic former RAM boys like himself whom he pays from his own pocket.

* * *

Now, you ask, where does Bibit get the money to pay the former RAM boys in his employ? The ex-RAM boys are not employees of the bureau.

Bibit is sitting on a treasure chest, according to my customs sources, that's why he doesn't want to budge.

The sources say Subic Freeport has become the haven of big smugglers. It is also the entry point of luxury car shipments. These shipments are allegedly either under declared or misdeclared so that their owners pay minimal, if no taxes, at all.

There are talks that Bibit was involved in big rice shipments using Subic Freeport as their entry. This was the reason for his relief.

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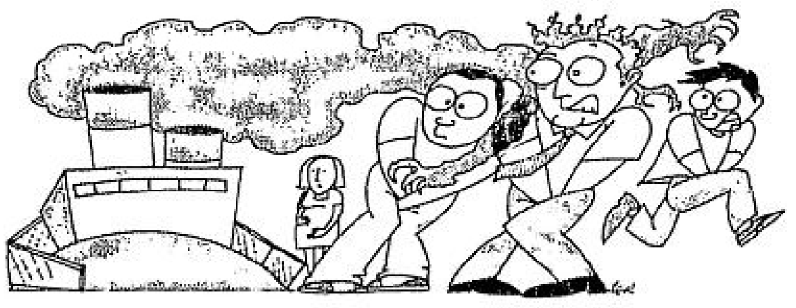
News that makes a difference

Incinerators shrink genitals, says research

By Joey Papa
Contributor



THE HEADLINE story of the maiden issue of GAIA Campaigner (July-September 2001), published by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives/Global Anti-Incinerator Alliance, is entitled "Incinerator emissions and shrinking genitals."

The article refers to a research conducted in Belgium, comparing the development of teeners living near incinerators with the development of those living far away from these facilities.

Boys living near the incinerators were found to have smaller testicles, as they may have been over-exposed to "endocrine disrupting chemicals," especially polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), while they were still in the womb, right after they were born, and during childhood.

Among the girls, the adverse effect was breast retardation due to over-exposure to "dioxin-like compounds," the study said.

The toxic chemicals released from incinerators, such as heavy metals, dioxins and PCBs which the research focused on, also cause cancer, heart disease, allergies and respiratory illnesses, the article said.

Harmful

Many more studies, publications, video and film documentaries and other forms of communication have sufficiently brought up the harm caused by incinerators on human health. Many more have explained the prohibitive costs of setting up and operating incinerators. Most of these also pointed out the senselessness of burning waste because waste is valuable resource, especially when composted or recycled.

Throughout the world, the trend to phase out or fight incinerators is increasing. Here in the Philippines, and only in the Philippines, as many would say of absurdities we experience in our country, there is a powerful lobby in Congress, among the Metro Manila mayors and other vested-interest groups.

The good news is that a growing number of the population is in sync with the rest of the enlightened world. These are the "zero waste zealots," as some pro-incinerators have branded those of us who want to be part of the "new thinking for a sustainable society," as described by Warren Snow, director of the Zero Waste New Zealand Trust.

Zero waste

Snow explains in his article, which is also included in GAIA Campaigner, that 150 years of an industrial system have extracted heavily from Nature's resources, destroying Nature itself by introducing incinerators and landfills to dispose of all the waste created by this system. The answer to this, Snow says, is the concept and practice of zero waste, which "seeks nothing less than the total redesign of the industrial system."

He says "everybody should take personal responsibility; designers should design products that are durable, repairable, and easy to disassemble for recycling and made of materials that can easily be incorporated harmlessly back into Nature or back into the industrial system. . . . Manufacturers should invest in new designs to create products with no wastes, to eliminate wasteful packaging and to take responsibility for the whole lifecycle of their products. . . .

"Universities and schools should incorporate zero waste as part of their basic curriculum and to

INCINERATORS/ A31

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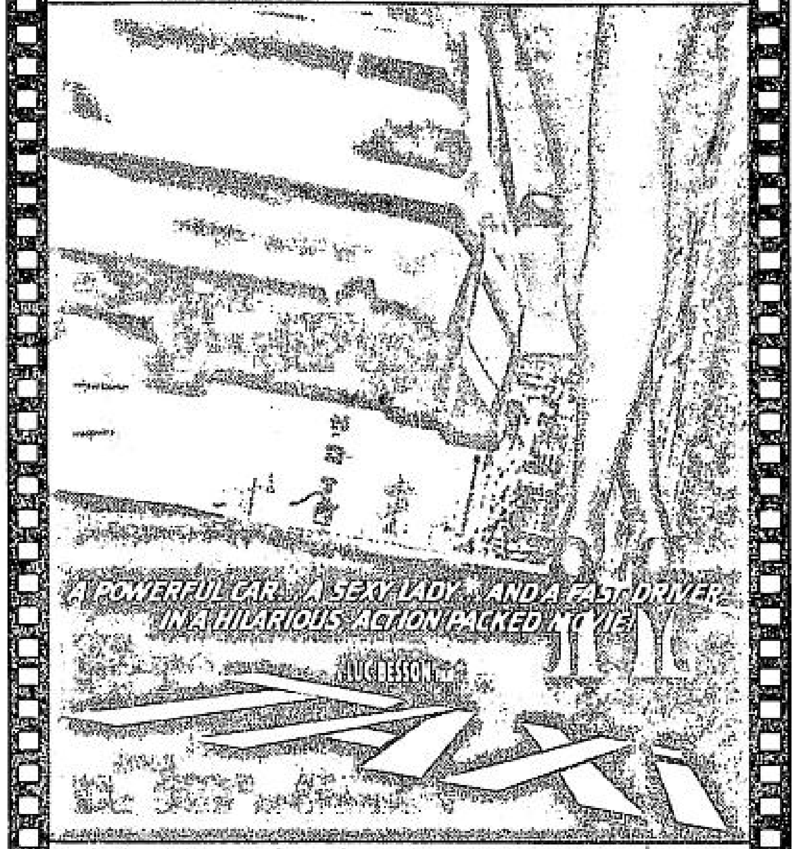
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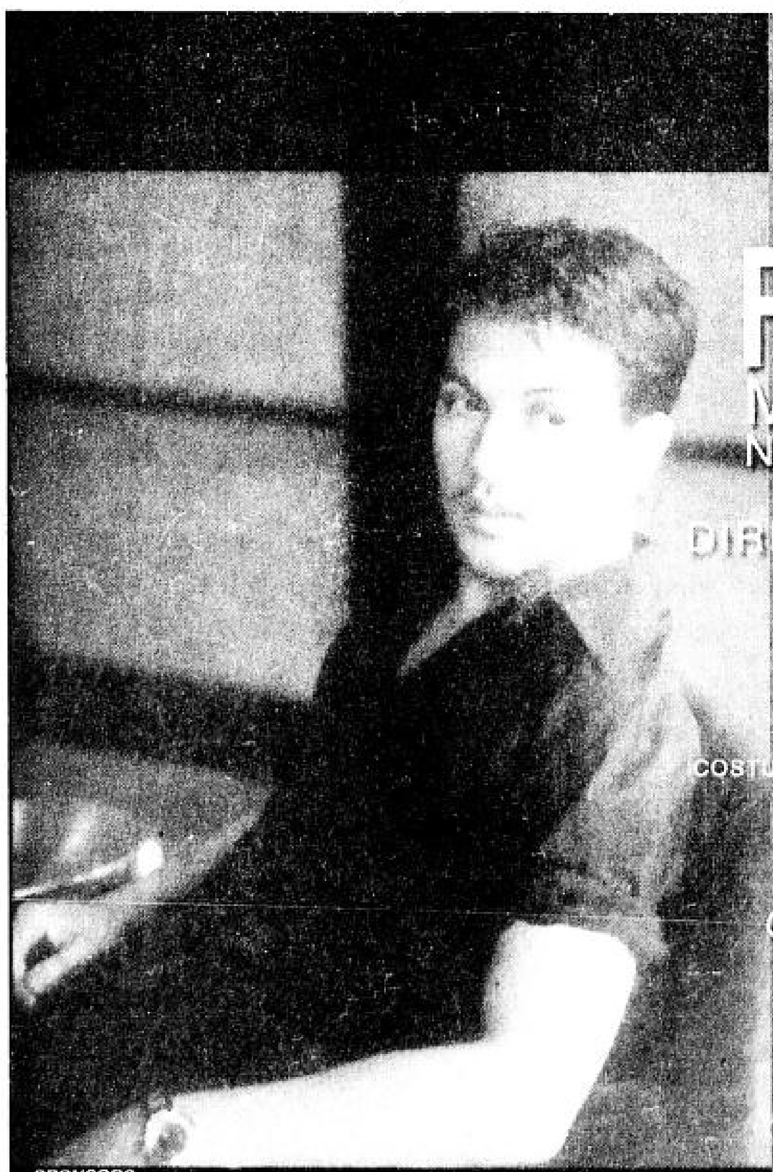

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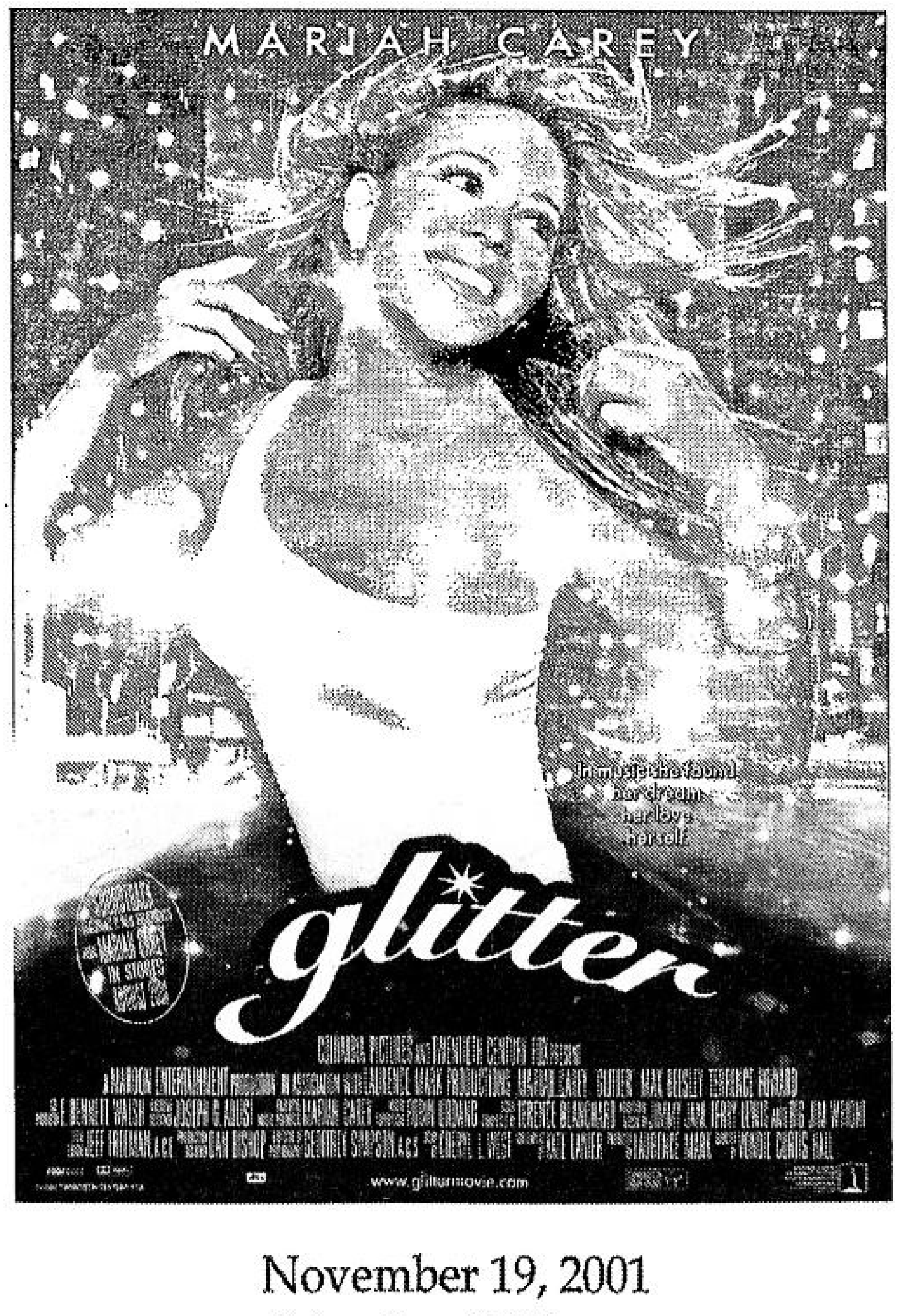
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MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
OPENS NOVEMBER 21

Good news for Makati, Mandaluyong employees

EMPLOYEES of the Makati and Mandaluyong city governments will be getting their holiday benefits ahead of the Yuletide season.

Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay yesterday ordered the release of the benefits of 7,200 employees of the city. The benefits include the 13th month pay, incentive pay, cash gift and rice subsidy.

"Lumping all these benefits together assures a pretty substantial cash inflow to each employee, which hopefully will lead to a more meaningful expenditure for the holidays," Binay said.

He also noted that Makati employees have one of the highest salary and benefits packages among local government units.

The lowest ranking employee stands to get at least P21,000 in total cash benefits, Binay said.

In Mandaluyong City, city hall employees would be receiving their Christmas bonus starting tomorrow. Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos has ordered city treasurer Crispina Espedido to release P10.267 million from the city's general fund to pay for the remaining 13th month pay of city employees. Half of the 13th month pay was already given in May.

Abalos said the P10.267 million is part of the city government's budget allocation of P42.345 million this year for bonuses and cash gifts of the city's regular, casual and contractual employees.

It has been the mayor's practice to release as early as possible the bonuses of employees.

"If it's due them let's not delay or withhold it," Abalos said. "City employees are high in the priority of my administration."

He has also ordered the early release of the city employees' midyear bonus in time for the opening of classes in June.

"The release of the Christmas bonus for our city employees as early as now would enable them to do their holiday shopping without the usual rush," Abalos said.

Street sweepers, traffic enforcers and hospital workers have enjoyed the early release of their bonus since the young Abalos assumed office. Mandaluyong was the first local government unit in Metro Manila to give early bonuses to its employees.

Abalos said that the P5,000 cash gift of the employees would follow the bonus.

Guess who's coming to town

SANTA Claus is coming to town!

Santa, who is said to live in a mountain called Korvatunturi (Ear Hill) in Lapland, Finland, will be in Manila from Dec. 14 to 25.

Santa will be brought to the country by ACT Entertainment Inc. He will visit malls in Metro Manila and the World Bazaar at the World Trade Center, according to ACT vice president Lara Fabregas-Bagatsing.

For details, call ACT at 687-18-55 to 56.

'Concert at 90'

MOTHER Frances Therese of the Child Jesus lived an extraordinary life. She was born 90 years ago in Tarbes-Lourdes, France as Suzanne Yvonne Matilde Hans Delmas. Her parents were surprised to hear her suddenly playing the piano flawlessly, specifically the first page of the 3rd Ballad of Chopin. She was a child prodigy at the age of 5 and could play Chopin in public.

She trained in music in Paris but gave up a budding and promising career at 18 to enter Carmel. She did not touch the piano for 40 years.

After an open-heart surgery last year, she was urged by the community to record her piano playing to help raise funds for the reconstruction of the monastery chapel. She finally agreed and recorded her first CD at the age of 90, "Concert at 90."

"Concert at 90" is exclusively available at The Xmas Factory bazaar on Nov. 17 and 24 at the Makati Sports Club. The events are organized by Menchie Mabanta and sponsored by Casino Filipino. The bazaars open at 9 a.m.

For more information, please call 671-2493, 671-2497 and 0917-526-4812.

GAB wins

THE GAMES and Amusements Board has bagged for two successive years, 1999 and 2000, the Most Outstanding Accounting Office award under the National Government Sector-Agencies Adopting Centralized Accounting System (Small Agencies) category.

The award was given by the Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines to GAB accounting OIC Lerina Braga and her staff last month at the Cebu Plaza Hotel in Cebu City. The accounting section was commended and given a citation by the GAB board headed by Chair Eduardo R. Villanueva.

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SAAN DARATING ANG UMAGA 10 PM
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Sharon Cuneta - Sinasamba Kita, Sana'y Maghintay Ang Walang Hanggan, Sana'y Wala ng Wakas, Bituing Walang Ningning and more...
Side A - Hold On, Tuloy Pa Rin Ako, Sana Naman, Love is Here to Say and more...

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6	WEYT A MINIT
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8	BUBBLE BOY

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522-7169416

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	JOY RIDE
5	THE ONE
6	KING OF GLADIATORS
7	SERENDIPITY
8	BUBBLE BOY
9	TRIP
10	JEEPERS CREEPERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	BUBBLE BOY
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	DON'T SAY A WORD
4	SERENDIPITY
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	TRIP
7	THE ONE
8	JOY RIDE
9	ANO BANG MERON KA?
10	JEEPERS CREEPERS
11	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
12	DOS EKIS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	SERENDIPITY
2	JOY RIDE
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	THE ONE
5	LEGALLY BLONDE
6	DON'T SAY A WORD
7	KING OF GLADIATORS
8	BUBBLE BOY
9	TRIP
10	JEEPERS CREEPERS
11	WEYT A MINIT
12	ANO BANG MERON KA?

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DON'T SAY A WORD
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3	JOY RIDE
4	THE ONE
5	SERENDIPITY
6	BUBBLE BOY
7	KING OF GLADIATORS
8	JEEPERS CREEPERS
9	WEYT A MINIT
10	TRIP
11	ANO BANG MERON KA?
12	LEGALLY BLONDE

SM TUTUBAN 2514302

1	THE ONE
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	TRIP
4	WEYT A MINIT

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	TRIP
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	SERENDIPITY
6	JOY RIDE
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	THE ONE
9	BUBBLE BOY
10	LEGALLY BLONDE
11	DOS EKIS
12	JEEPERS CREEPERS

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888

1	BUBBLE BOY
2	TRIP
3	SERENDIPITY
4	WEYT A MINIT
5	KING OF GLADIATORS
6	JEEPERS CREEPERS
7	ANO BANG MERON KA?
8	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
9	THE ONE
10	JOY RIDE

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L 8820995

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	TRIP

SM CEBU 2313016

1	THE ONE
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	THE BODY
4	ROSARIO 18
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	TRIP
7	TRAINING DAY

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	THE BODY
2	CLOSED
3	THE ONE
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	TRIP
6	TRAINING DAY
7	CLOSED
8	HIYAS

SM PAMPANGA 7128015

1	THE ONE
2	DON'T SAY A WORD
3	DOS EKIS
4	TRIP
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	WEYT A MINIT

SM SUCAT 8294915

1	TRIP
2	THE ONE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?

SM DAVAO

1
2
3
4
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2	SERENDIPITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	WEYT A MINIT KAPENG MAINIT	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	TRIP	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	THE ONE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	JOY RIDE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SERENDIPITY THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	KING OF GLADIATOR	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BUBBLE BOY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	SERENDIPITY	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	JOY RIDE	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SERENDIPITY	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	SNAPSHOTS & PORTRAITS NOV. 16, 17 - 8 PM NOV. 18 - 3 PM Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	SERENDIPITY THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	JOY RIDE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	THE ONE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BUBBLE BOY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	KING OF GLADIATOR
2 (SDDS)	THE ONE
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4 GOLD (DTS)	JOY RIDE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY
8	WEYT A MINIT
9	ANO BANG MERON KA?
10	TRIP

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	
3 (DTS)	JOY RIDE
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	JOY RIDE

starmall Movies (Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	THE ONE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
5	KING OF GLADIATORS

METROPOLIS star (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	TRIP
2	JOY RIDE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	ANO BANG MERON KA?
5	SERENDIPITY
6	THE ONE
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX (Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	JOY RIDE

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	GHOST OF MARS
2	TRIP

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	
2	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
A	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE ONE
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR
4	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	JOY RIDE
5	BUBBLE BOY
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8 (SDDS)	THE ONE
9 (DOLBY)	SERENDIPITY

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4 (SDDS)	WEYT A MINIT
5	TRIP
6 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
7 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
8	JOY RIDE
9	DOS EKIS

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	KING OF GLADIATORS
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	JOY RIDE
5 (SDDS)	THE ONE
6	WEYT A MINIT
7 (DOLBY)	BUBBLE BOY
8	TRIP

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	TRIP
5 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	ANO BANG MERON KA ?
Lords	MEDUSA
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	ANO BANG MERON KA?

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	WEYT A MINIT
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	THE ONE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	

Berma tel 879.2029

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	TRIP

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	JOY RIDE
3	
4	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TRIP
2 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	WEYT A MINIT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DOLBY)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT
4	TRIP

Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	-TRIP
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	THE ONE
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT
4 (DTS)	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
4	LAST ERUPTION
5	THE ONE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	CAPT. CORRELLI'S

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	DOS EKIS
2	THE ONE
3	AMERICAN PIE 2

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	WEYT A MINIT
2	CAPT. CORRELLI'S
3	RESERVE

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2 (DTS)	WEYT A MINIT

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	ANO BANG MERON KA?
3	WEYT A MINIT

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	JEEPERS CREEPERS
2	TRIP
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	TRAINING DAY

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	THE ONE
2	WEYT A MINIT
3	SOON TO OPEN
4 (DTS EX)	ANO BANG MERON KA?

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THX	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
2	JOY RIDE
3	KING OF GLADIATORS
4	SERENDIPITY
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	THE ONE
7	BUBBLE BOY
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?
9	JEEPERS CREEPERS
10	TRIP

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	SERENDIPITY
2	JOY RIDE
3	WEYT A MINIT
4	BUBBLE BOY
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	TRIP
7	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S

NOVALICHES 935-3229 TO 31

1	JOY RIDE
2	JOY RIDE
3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
4	SERENDIPITY
5	ANO BANG MERON KA?
6	ANO BANG MERON KA?
7	WEYT A MINIT
8	TRIP

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
2	KING OF GLADIATORS
3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
4	TRIP
5	WEYT A MINIT
6	JOY RIDE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	AMERICAN PIE 2
2	LEGALLY BLONDE
3	DOWN TO EARTH
4	MR. NICE GUY
5	EXTREME FORCE
6	TRIP

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 /633-7641 loc. 279

1	ANO BANG MERON KA?
2	BUBBLE BOY
3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S
4	JOY RIDE
5	JOY RIDE
6	SERENDIPITY
7	WEYT A MINIT
8	ANO BANG MERON KA?

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DOS EKIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TRIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ONE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	GHOST OF MARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DON'T SAY A WORD
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	THE ONE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG AAPOY NA LAMAN / TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ODEON	JOY RIDE
ODEON-2	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
ROBEN	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	CROCODILE / ST. FRANCIS VILLE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	WEYT A MINIT
REMAR	WEYT A MINIT, KAPENG MAINIT
REMAR-2	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	WEYT A MINIT
B	ANO BANG MERON KA?
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE ONE
CINEMA-2	BUBBLE BOY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HAYOP SA SEX APPEAL
CINEMA-2	TRIP
CINEMA-3	ANO BANG MERON KA?
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JEEPERS CREEPERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KING OF THE GLADIATOR
CINEMA-6	TRIP
CINEMA-7	DOS EKIS
CINEMA-8	WEYT A MINIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAPT. CORRELLIS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-12	THE ONE
CINEMA-14	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-15	WEYT A MINIT

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JOY RIDE
CINEMA-2	SERENDIPITY
CINEMA-3	CAPTAIN CORRELLI'S MANDOLIN
CINEMA-4	THE ONE
CINEMA-5	BUBBLE BOY
CINEMA-6	SERENDIPITY

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

METROBRIEFS

Quarrel

CARGO checker Christopher Nicol, 26, stabbed to death his pregnant girlfriend Jasmin Maceda, 25, then stabbed himself in the heart, police said. Nicol, 26, of Caloocan City, fought with Maceda Thursday inside the J. Larose Videoke Bar and Restaurant in Tondo, Manila, said investigator SPO1 Diomedes Laborda. He said the couple fought after Maceda told Nicol she wanted to work in Japan. Maceda suffered 10 stab wounds in the body, while Nicol died from a single stab wound in the chest, police said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Amok

TERROR gripped a residential community in Old Balara, Quezon City, yesterday morning when Prudencio Reclamante went berserk, stabbing dead his neighbor Fernando Guarin and wounding his wife Wilma when she tried to stop Reclamante from attacking her husband. PO3 Marlon Villanueva of the Traffic Management Group based in Camp Crame, who lived nearby, shot dead Reclamante, 31, after he rushed at Villanueva with a bolo. Villanueva surrendered to the Central Police District. Desk Officer SPO1 Rafael de Peralta said CPD investigators are now trying to determine whether or not Villanueva could be charged with killing Reclamante. *Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

Drug test

THE Taguig municipal government began implementing mandatory drug testing for all local officials and employees, from the mayor down to the barangay captains, as part of an ambitious campaign to rid the town of illegal drugs. Taguig Mayor Sigfredo Tinga on Thursday led councilors and department heads in undergoing drug tests through urine or blood examination. Those found using illegal substances would be suspended without pay for at least six months. Those who will fail a second drug test will automatically be fired. *Christian V. Esguerra*

In the act

MANDALUYONG police yesterday arrested electrician Marlon Binalla, 32, of San Juan, after he was caught stealing telephone cables along Ortigas Avenue. More than 100 meters of telephone cable owned by Eastern Telecoms were found on him, police said. SPO3 Guillermo Boy said members of Mandaluyong City police mobile patrol unit spotted Binalla cutting the cables from an electric post and arrested him. But police are still determining what charges to file against Binalla. *Nelson F. Flores*

Sex, drugs

A 52-YEAR-OLD mother and her 33-year-old son were among five people arrested in Makati City for engaging in an orgy of sex and drugs in a house in Barangay Tejeros.

Police said all the five suspects, whom they did not name, were found with an undetermined amount of shabu and shabu paraphernalia.

Police said they received complaints from residents that the house where the suspects were caught was used as a drug and sex den. *Alcuin Papa*

Warehouse robbery prompts tighter security in Pasig

PASIG City Mayor Soledad Eusebio yesterday asked local police to tighten security measures in malls, churches and other public places to prevent crime.

This came a day after 20 armed men in fatigue uniforms robbed the warehouse of a trading firm owned by Filipino-Chinese business mogul Lucio Tan of some P million cash.

Eusebio noted that the number of theft and robbery cases usually soar during the Christmas season. She said police visibility could deter criminals.

She also directed police to pursue those who robbed Tan's warehouse Thursday morning.

Police said the robbbers broke into the warehouse of the Masobic Trading Corp. at the Zebra Compound in Barangay Kapitolyo shortly after 9 a.m. They were on board two Toyota Hi-Ace vans with registration plates UNN 689 and WEA 195.

The robbers disarmed the four security guards at the entrance.

The robbers went to the office on the ground floor and ordered the employees there to drop to the floor while of the suspects some went to the second floor, where the finance and accounting offices are located, and also ordered employees to lie face down on the floor.

Nelson F. Flores

'Marathon of Hope'

THE Philippine Cancer Society, in partnership with the Embassy of Canada and the Terry Fox Foundation, will be holding the 8th Annual Terry Fox Marathon of Hope tomorrow at the Cultural Complex in Manila.

The famous marathon has also been held worldwide for more than 20 years by the Canadian embassies and the Terry Fox Foundation.

Terry Fox was a young Canadian who developed cancer at the age of 18. His leg was amputated and was replaced with an artificial leg. Seeing the plight of cancer patients in hospitals, he made it his mission to run across Canada in order to raise funds.

Covering a number of cities and towns in Canada and undeterred by his handicap, Fox managed to trek across Canada alone and made people aware of the need to raise funds for cancer research.

Unfortunately, halfway through, he had to be hospitalized and, a few weeks later, he succumbed to cancer.

But his efforts were not in vain. His marathon succeeded in raising at least $23 million and in lifting the hopes of cancer victims worldwide.

Spearheading the run in the Philippines is former President Fidel V. Ramos as special guest, together with Canadian Ambassador Robert Collete and other dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps.

The run will also be participated in by members of the corporate sector, students from colleges in Metro Manila, the Armed Forces, cancer survivors, patients, support groups and their caregivers.

Registration will be at 6 a.m. but the run will start promptly at 7 a.m. Rnners will start on Vicente Sotto Street and end on the same street.

Proceeds from the run will go to the Philippine Cancer Society's epidemiological research on cancer registry.

Interested parties may call the Philippine Cancer Society, 734-2114; 734-2127 or e-mail pcsi@pcsi.com.ph.

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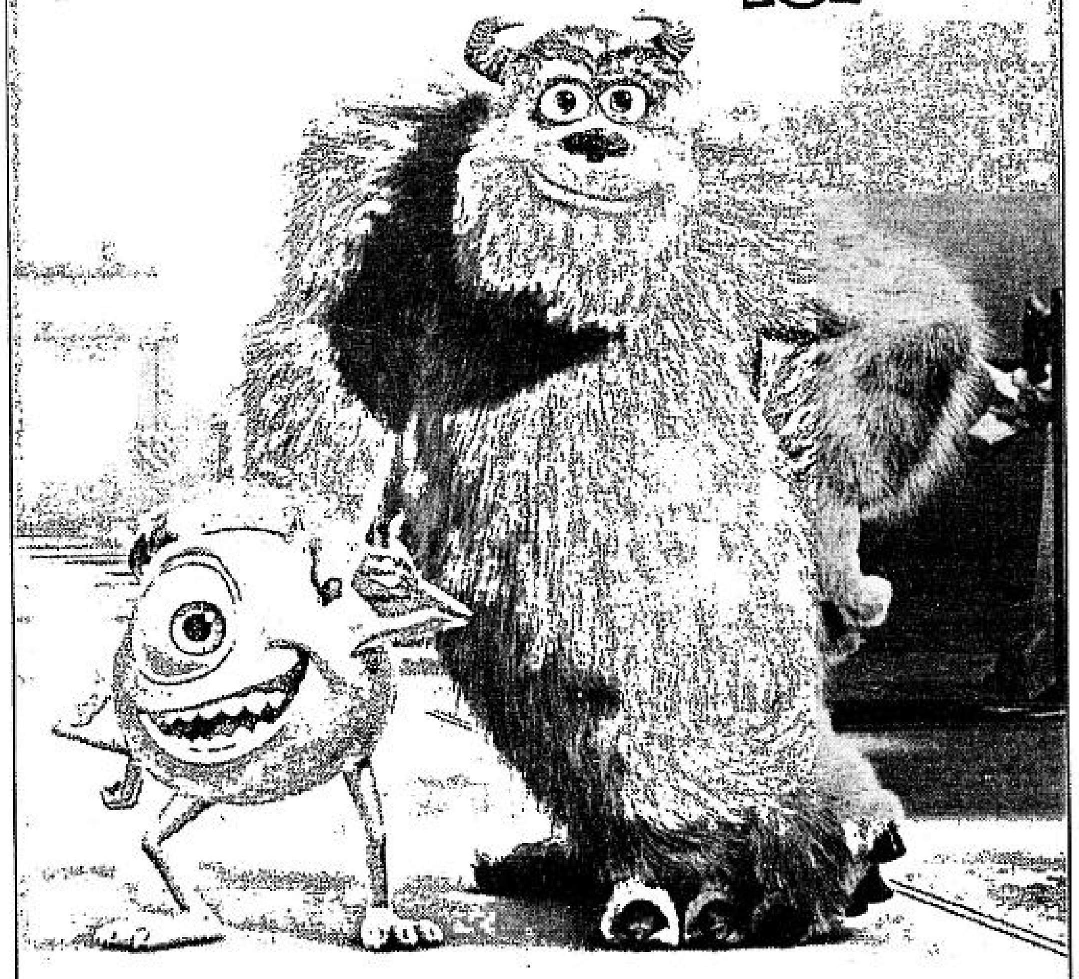

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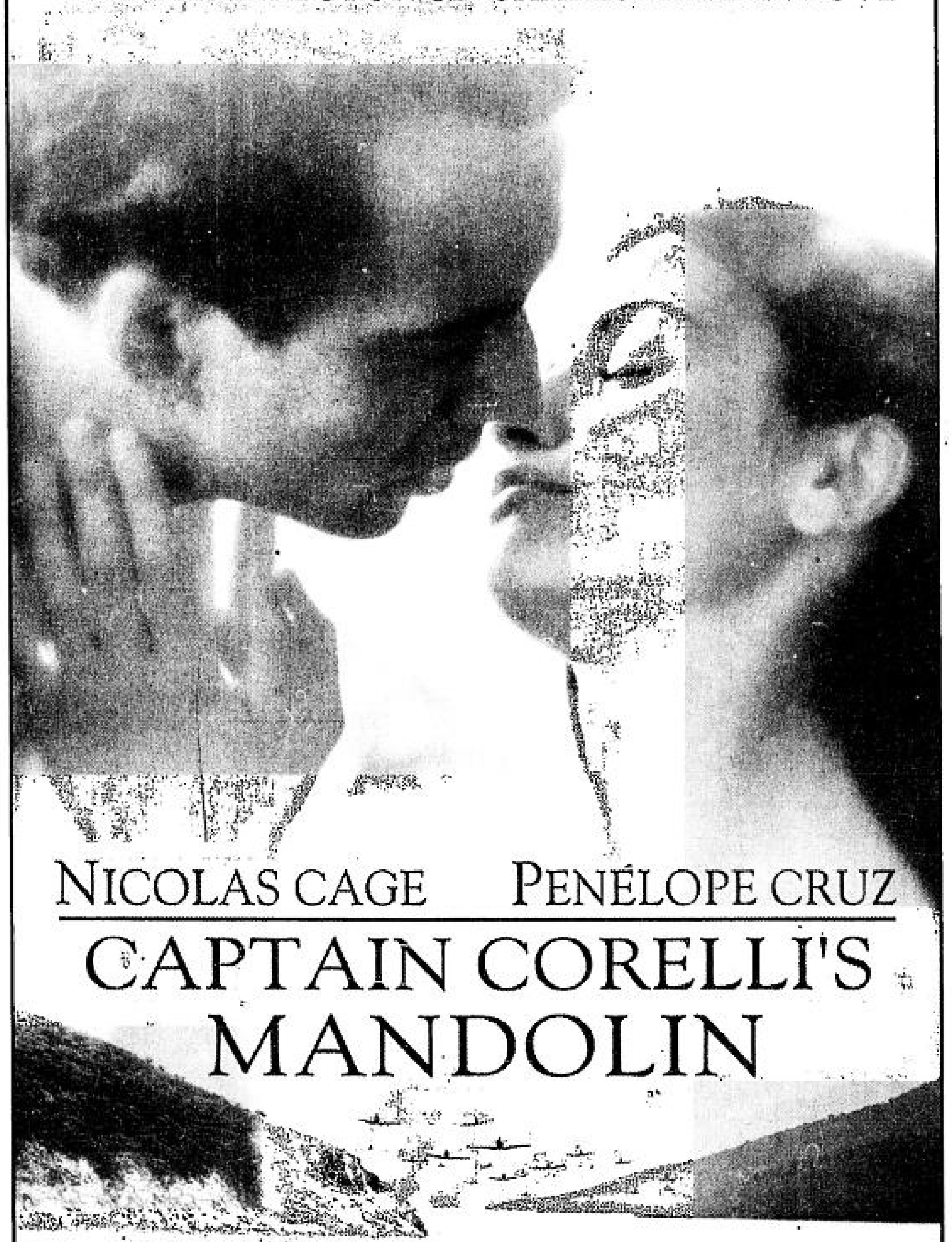

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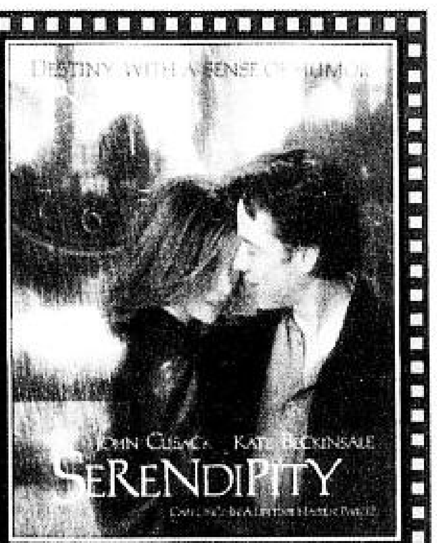

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Abandoned as a child by her mother, Billie grows up in an orphanage. Discovered by a charismatic "bad boy" deejay who becomes her lover, she is soon on her way to pop superstardom.

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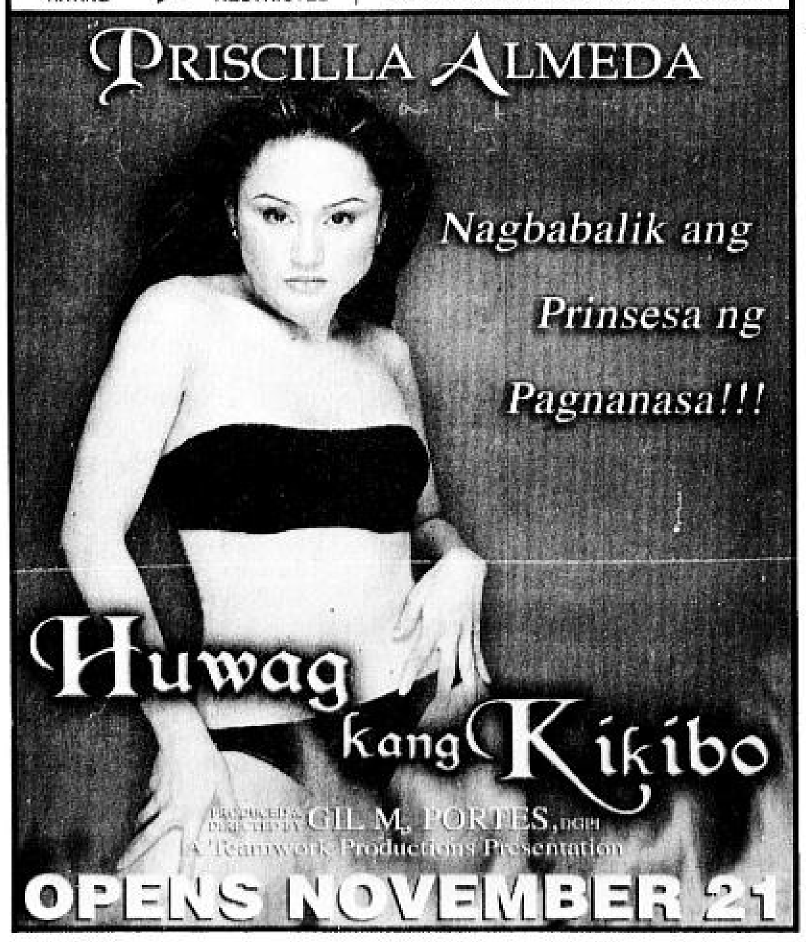

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klaudia koronel
eddie garcia
long mejia
KAPITAN AMBO
DIRECTED BY JOVEN M. TAN

NGO adopts, revives portion of Pasig River

By Ophellia San Juan

WHAT has happened to the Pasig River rehabilitation projects of "concerned" entities? Has former First Lady Ming Ramos' "Piso Para sa Psig" campaign gone down with the peso?

Must we forever police the Pasig River banks so that big-time polluters cannot do their thing to this once-beautiful, once-legendary waterway?

The questions regarding the revitalizing of the Pasig River take a backseat to the pressing issues of poverty, terrorism and high-level corruption. But it is probable that if Filipinos can put their house in order, such as by making a major waterway cleaner and more presentable, they can also address other issues with more power and success.

Fortunately, some non-government organizations (NGOs) don't forget their self-appointed tasks. One such body is the Pasig River Development Foundation, headed by businessman and environmentalist Robert T. Rivera, which has been working since 1997 for "the restoration of the environmental state of the Pasig River system."

For four years now, Rivera has been coordinating with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the local government of Mandaluyong City to restore the luster of the river by dredging, with the foundation adopting the Mandaluyong portion of the river for cleanup, maintenance and greening by planting mahogany and narra tree seedlings along its banks.

The foundation is getting a much-needed shot in the arm with the prospect that it can dredge the entire length of the Pasig River from Manila Bay to the mouth of Laguna Lake, at no cost to the Philippine government or Mandaluyong. Rivera said this would be made possible through the cooperation of a Malaysian firm which has offered to do the dredging for free, provided that it would be awarded the silt and debris it would gather for use in its reclamation project.

DREDGING the Mandaluyong portion of Pasig River is part of the foundation's project.

The Malaysians will be using the most modern technology and equipment to carry out the Pasig River dredging. The group has been tapped by Mandaluyong Vice Mayor Jesse Cruz, who is president of the Vice Mayors' League. A presentation of the dredging process has been submitted to and has been approved by Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., who is co-chair of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

Rivera's Pasig River Development Foundation in turn will provide a 3-year comprehensive study and research program for river rehabilitation.

The study has been pursued by Rivera, a resident scholar of the Asian Productivity Organization of Japan and the newly elected president of the Mandaluyong Chamber of Çommerce and Industry. He observed measures adopted by key cities in the world in the maintenance of their rivers like the Rhine in Germany, the Blue Danube in Vienna, Austria, the Yarra in Melbourne, Australia, and the Sumida in Tokyo, Japan.

RIVERA

Central to the study, Rivera disclosed, is the self-discipline exercised by the citizenry in these cities. He noted that residents and factories along the river banks in the countries he visited "do not dump garbage or trash into the river."

He expressed the hope that Filipinos would do the same. The government and the authorities can help, but the desire and the drive to revive the glory of the Pasig River have to come from the people.

The Rhine River, for example, has a lot of residential houses and industrial sites along its banks, Rivera said, but it has always maintained its luster.

The Pasig River may thus regain its fabled beauty and usefulness, this time with the concerted effort of NGOs and government agencies like the MMDA, the DENR, and LGUs and with the assistance of foreign firms like the Malaysians.

WPD rookie cop accidentally shoots waitress

A ROOKIE Western Police District (WPD) policeman accidentally shot and injured a 23-year-old waitress while he was playing with his gun at a videoke bar in Manila Thursday night.

P01 Jeffrey Quiranje, of the police community precinct at Plaza Mirana, Quiapo, Manila, was allegedly drunk when he played with his revolver and accidentally shot waitress Archie A. Asis, of Daijubo KTV in Balut, Tondo, said investigator P03 Severino Busa of the WPD-general assignment section.

Asis was hit in the left thigh, Busa said.

Asis told investigators she was doing her job when the accident happened around 11:30 p.m. on the second floor of the bar at the corner of Onorio Lopez and Buendia streets in Balut.

She said Quiranje arrived with another policemen and ordered four bottles of beer. After they finished drinking, they paid their bill but did not leave, she said.

Quirante continued singing, she said. When he finished, he gave the microphone to his friend. It was then that Quirante drew his revolver, Asis said.

She said the policeman began playing with his gun, not knowing that it was pointed at her.

Asis said the policemen simply squeezed the trigger and she was hit in the right thigh.

The two men escaped.

As of yesterday afternoon, the suspect had not gone to the WPD headquarters to surrender or present his side.

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THE ONE - P 13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20	BUBBLE BOY - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	SERENDIPITY - P 13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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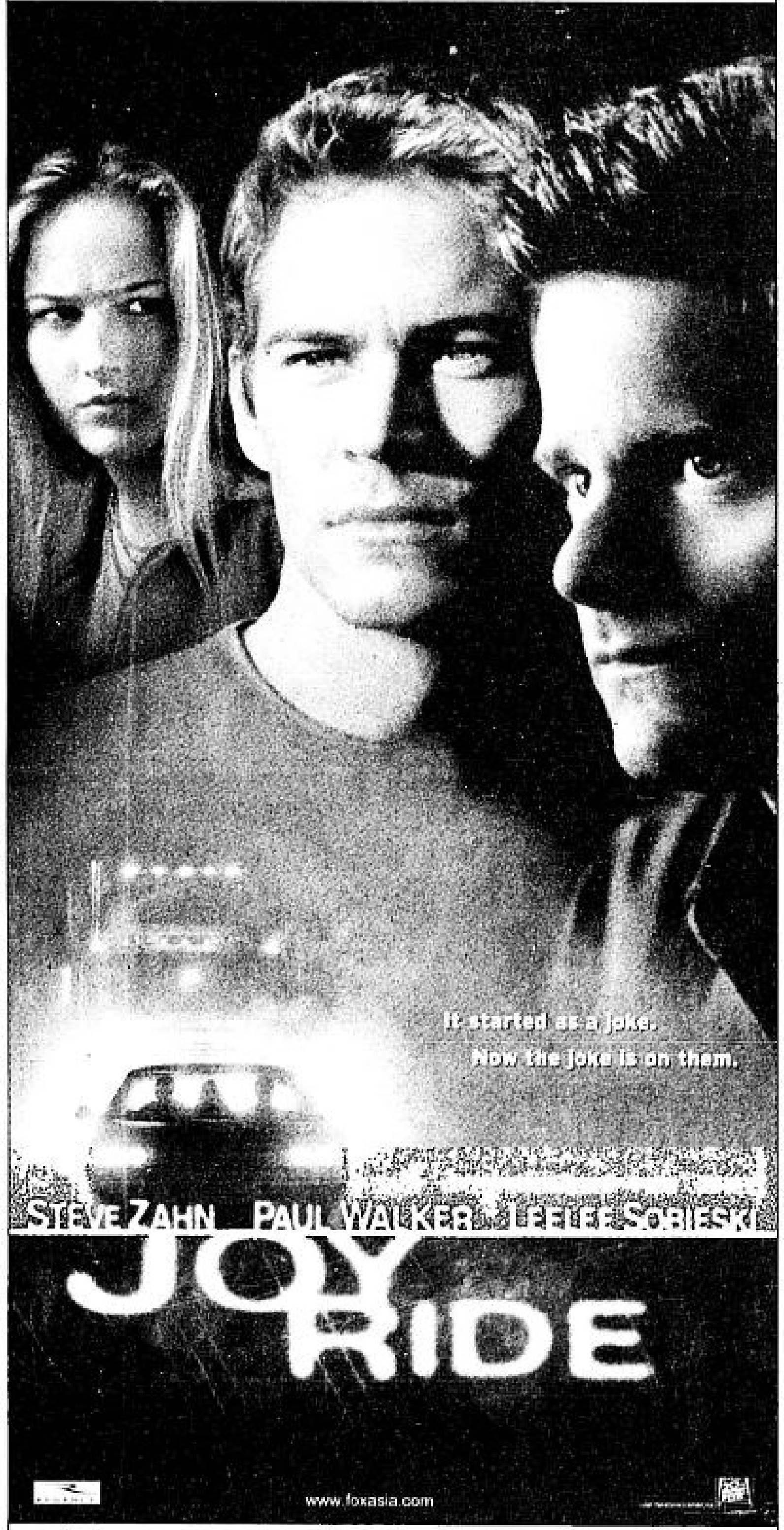
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"The One" features spectacular fight scenes choreographed by the best Hong Kong martial artists, and astounding special effects in the tradition of "The Matrix" and "Terminator 2." Action fans will applaud the non-stop thrill ride of Jet Li's latest mega-blockbuster.

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Incinerators . . .

(From page A27)

have their own recycling systems in place. . . .. Governments are urged to take the leadership role and to put the vision of a zero waste society forward for their communities and industries to make their countries more competitive. . . ."

Breakthrough

The beauty of the zero waste vision especially for our country is that, according to Snow, "it favors local communities and local economies . . . . People with low income and with less education will be able to find local opportunities for training and employment as more industries spring up around the materials that are being diverted back into the economy or nature . . . (it is) a breakthrough strategy for a society in crisis."

We have our own simple strategy for Zero Waste Philippines as framed by Luz E. Sabas, this writer's favorite resource person on ecological solid waste management: Use locally developed, labor- and employment-generating, low-cost, and life-enhancing and life-sustaining technologies.

Incinerators do not satisfy human needs. They are mere machines for burning trash thrown away by irresponsible humans. They do not only shrink human genitals, they also destroy, obliterate and negate valuable resources including human resource because they are anti-people and anti-environment.

P23.4 billion

They guarantee doom for a society in crisis. Sonia Mendoza, president of Mother Earth Unlimited, gives these figures: The contract with Jancom, the proponent company for the incinerator, quotes $450 million, or P23.4 billion, to be paid by Metro Manila residents in the form of tipping fees. The tipping fee is $90 per ton, P6.83 billion per year.

The contract provides for a guaranteed supply of waste, which will surely discourage waste segregation, composting, and recycling. The contract for setting up the incinerator also requires "sovereign guarantee," meaning, even if the required volume of waste is not met, the government will continue paying the amount set in the contract.

Mendoza also gives the costs for setting up a materials recovery facility or ecological center, which provides for composting and storage areas, addressing 80 percent to 90 percent of waste output. The remaining 10 percent to 20 percent, she says, can be addressed by the municipality, city or province, or the Metro Manila Development Authority.

The average cost is P750,000 for an urban barangay and P600,000 for a provincial barangay. Assuming that each of the country's 42,000 barangays puts up its own Eco center, this would amount to about P31.5 billion for the whole Philippines. This is only a one-time expense for capital outlay.

Recyclables

Composters and shredders should be locally fabricated. The eco shelter "should be simple but practical and can use recycled materials," Mendoza says. Salaries for eco-aides can be incorporated in the barangay budget.

The eco center is expected to generate income and livelihood from the sale of compost or fertilizer, non-biodegradable waste, and products from recycled biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.

According to data from the Buro-Buro Vermi-Farm, the world consumption of organically grown foods is about $100 billion per year. We can help supply much of this demand by composting our biodegradable waste. This way, we also rehabilitate our degraded lands.

Using recyclables for our factories will save our natural resources from further exploitation. We can recover, recreate, renew and reassure the continuity and quality of life in this country and even beyond our shores because we will have clean air and clean waters. that extend beyond territorial and artificial boundaries.

(The author can be reached at bangon_kalikasan@skyinet.net)

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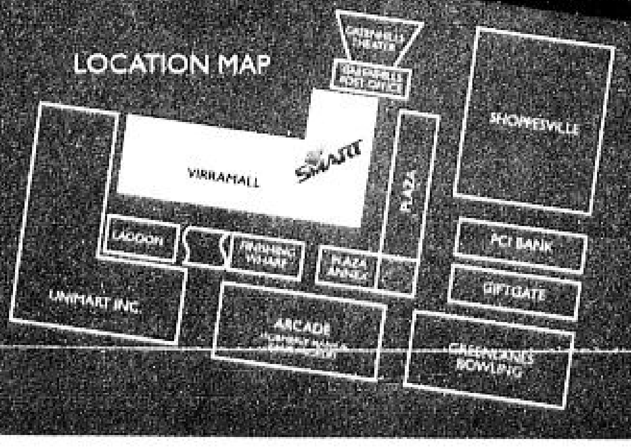
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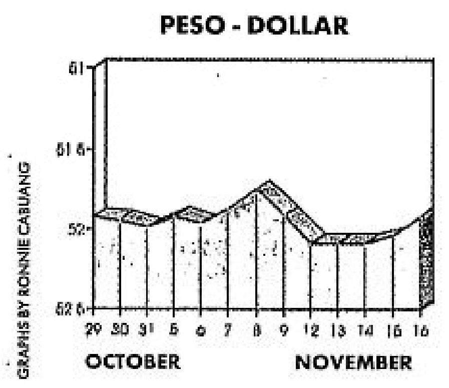
US okays registration of $800-M RP bonds



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.92= $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 16, 2001

Y 122.22 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Nov. 16, 2001

GOLD:$275.30/275.80
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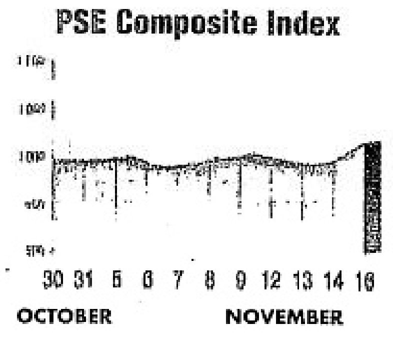
Nov. 16, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Shares up



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE STOCK market extended a winning run to a third straight day yesterday, with investors encouraged by news on the political and economic fronts, including the rescue of hostages from the extremist Abu Sayyaf group, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index gained 17.48 points, or 1.7 percent, to 1,033.34 after rising 18.34 points to 1,015.86 Thursday. In the last three days, the index has advanced 4.4 percent or 43.38 points.

The broader All Shares Index climbed 5.37 points to 667.31 after Thursday's 11.44-point increase to 671.94.

Gainers beat losers 53 to 9, with 36 issues unchanged.

Manila Electric, which is recovering from a sell-off sparked by concern over its debt woes, lead advancers and cornered a quarter of the total turnover yesterday.

Total volume increased to 746.5 million shares from Thursday's 299.7 million shares, although the transaction value yesterday declined to P463.1 million from P537.2 million as investors also picked up on second-line stocks.

Other gainers yesterday were SM Prime Holdings and San Miguel Corp.

AP

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE PHILIPPINE government has finally obtained the approval of the US Securities and Exchange Commission for the registration of $800 million worth of new securities, paving the way for the issuance of as much as $1.2 billion worth of global bonds next year.

"For now we want to concentrate on two pending borrowings … the ($225 million) Euro bonds and the ($500 million) yen bonds. The approval gives us the flexibility to issue global bonds when we need it," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said yesterday.

Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan said there were no plans to push through this year with the global bonds, a borrowing that was bumped off because of delays in the US SEC approval and the lack of interest for emerging market borrowers.

"The approval is important for the Philippines in enhancing its access to the US capital markets and providing international investors the opportunity to invest in Philippine sovereign credit under an open, transparent, and secure process," Tan said.

"The registration statement covers a maximum aggregate principal amount of $1.2 billion or its equivalent in other currencies, of debt securities and warrants that may be offered or sold in the US. The securities registered are expected to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis over the next two years," the Department of Finance said in a statement.

In July, the government had mandated US firm Credit Suisse First Boston to handle the issuance of about $500 million worth of global bonds in the United States. The rosy prospects led the government to register some $800 million in new securities in July with the US SEC on top of its unused registration worth $400 million.

A week after the deal with Credit Suisse was finalized, credit problems of Argentina had resurfaced and led to wider spreads on emerging market borrowings, including that of the Philippines.

Market sources said Credit Suisse would have lost between $20 million to $40 million in the fully underwritten commitment to the Philippine government had the transaction pushed through.

The US bank had reportedly agreed to underwrite the deal at a spread of only about 5.3 percentage points over the London interbank offered rate when spreads on emerging market borrowings had widened by at least a percentage point since the reported default of Argentina.

Both groups then agreed to cancel the borrowing and Credit Suisse instead offered to do a $250-million private placement of bonds for the government.

"Definitely, we would do the global bonds next year unless the situation worsens. We may have to do it under different transactions with different tenors," Tan said.

Last year, the Department of Finance was able to register $1.2 billion worth of securities before the US SEC in less than two weeks while this time, it took four months to obtain the regulator's go-ahead.

Last September, the US SEC even raised the issue of the Philippines' lack of law against money laundering.

Still, the government intends to tap the global bond market to raise about $1.4 billion worth of foreign financing for 2002. Of the total, the administration had so far finalized the deal for $850 million worth of borrowings.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho wanted to secure a guarantee from groups like the World Bank to guarantee the debt and make the cost of any global bond issue cheaper.

The last time the government issued global bonds was in March 2000 when it floated $800 million worth of long-term debt notes, leaving $400 million worth of registration unused.

IMF cuts global growth forecast, sees no recession

WASHINGTON—Global economic growth will be sharply cut in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, but a worldwide recession will likely be avoided, the International Monetary Fund said yesterday.

The IMF scaled back its forecasts for economic growth in 2001 and 2002 that were prepared before the terror attacks that hammered the economies of the United States and rippled around the globe.

The IMF cut its forecast slightly for 2001 to 2.4 percent compared with a 2.6 percent forecast prepared in September.

More significantly, the initial IMF forecast for 2002 for global growth was cut by more than a full point to 2.4 percent instead of 3.5 percent.

IMF managing director Horst Koehler said the IMF staff's "best estimate is still that there will be a recovery, beginning around the middle of next year," though he noted the forecast was highly speculative and may have to be changed.

"We have to recognize that we face an extraordinary degree of uncertainty in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks," he said in a statement.

"There is no real precedent for this situation, which makes forecasting based on previous experience look something like trying to read the tea leaves."

"We do not think that (forecast) is a recession," Koehler said at a news conference on the upcoming IMF governing board meeting in Ottawa.

"The outcome of the slowdown will be less severe than the recessions in '91 and in the early '80s," he said.

Deputy managing director Anne Krueger said there has never been an official definition of a global recession, clarifying remarks earlier that the IMF had a convention that 2.5-percent growth represented recessionary conditions, when taking into account population growth.

Koehler said "the fundamentals in the global economy are still good," and warned against being overly pessimistic.

There is a "good chance" for a recovery in global growth beginning in the second quarter of next year, he said.

The IMF did not release a full country-by-country forecast for its World Economic Outlook, which was released in late September based on forecasts before Sept. 11. A full revision is expected to be completed in December.

But it said growth in the United

IMF/ B3

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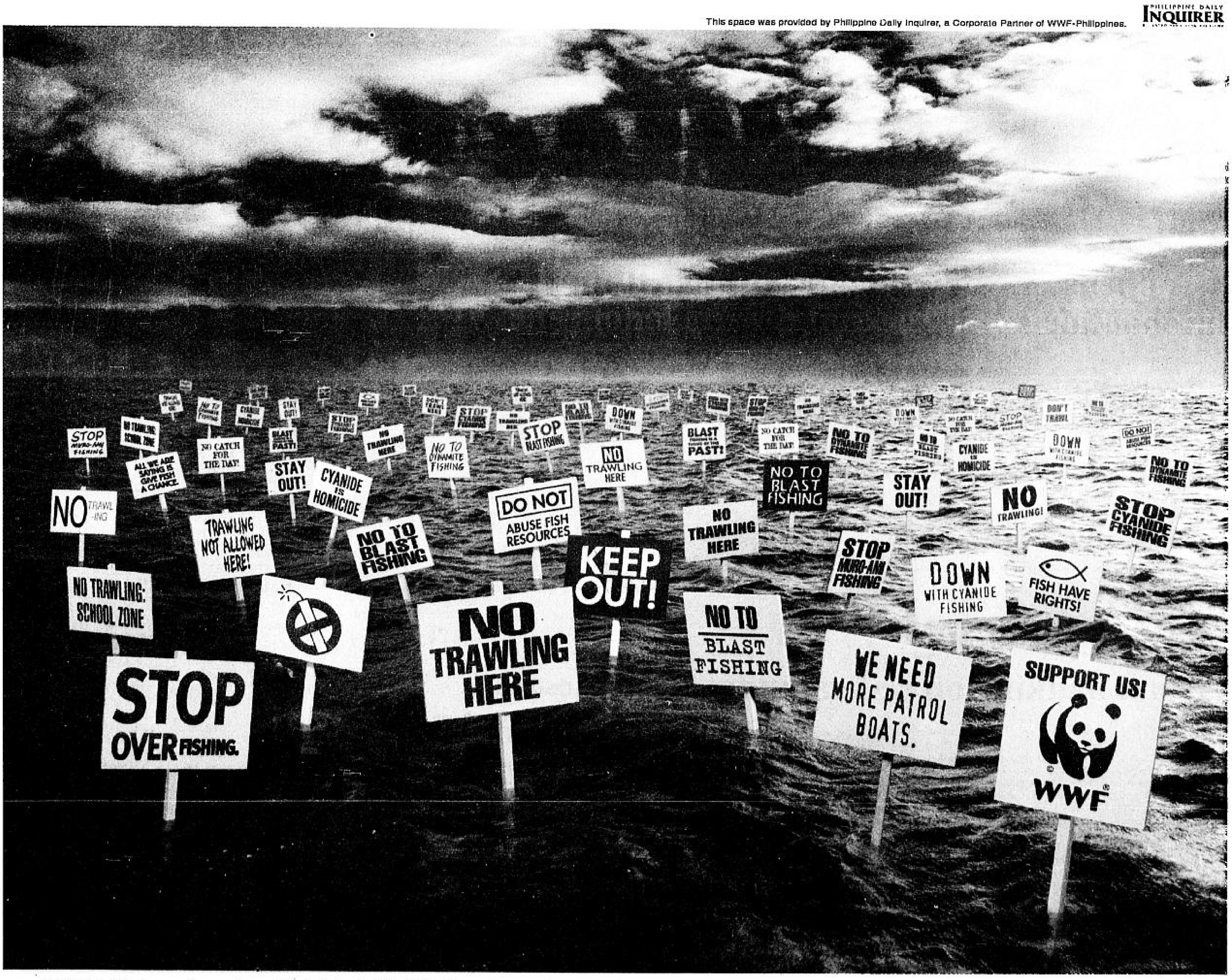


FISH RALLY. A massive protest action is being held in Philippine waters against the harm caused by illegal and destructive fishing practices. The organisers need your support. Donate to WWF now by calling 433 3222.

PSE lists four as outgoing prexy's likely replacement

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has come up with a short list of four business leaders as candidates to replace its outgoing president.

Persons familiar with the matter yesterday told the INQUIRER that the local bourse was considering former Finance Secretaries Jesus Estanislao and Vicente Jayme, ex-Social Security System administrator Renato Valencia, and former Far East Bank and Trust Co. president Octavio Espiritu as possible replacements for PSE president Ramon Garcia.

Wracked by a leadership crisis that stemmed from a dispute between the stock exchange and Metro Pacific Corp., Garcia has been forced to step down when his term expires in March next year.

Estanislao and Jayme both served as finance secretaries under the Aquino administration. Estanislao, an economist, is currently the chief executive of the Institute for Corporate Directors. Jayme has been a non-broker member of the PSE board for two years.

Valencia, head of the SSS under the Ramos administration, was groomed by the Macapagal administration last year as its bet to replace former Marcos crony Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. as chair of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

Espiritu used to be president of the FEBTC until the bank was acquired by the Bank of the Philippine Islands in one of the biggest mergers in local banking history. He had been head of the Bankers Association of the Philippines. He is now a director of SM Development Corp.

Sources said the stock exchange had sent emissaries to talk to the four, but none had indicated willingness to succeed Garcia. Jayme was reported to have turned down the offer.

Garcia is scheduled to step down in March next year. Since the current board will step down with him, there have been suggestions to just let the incoming board decide on who to appoint as PSE president.

Garcia is seen as a strong contender in the event. One of his key supporters, veteran broker Robert Coyiuto, is elected PSE chair.

With Coyiuto's support, Garcia was able to generate proxies from a majority of the stock exchange's members after he was sacked by the current board chaired by Felipe Yap because of a spat he had with Metro Pacific's Manuel Pangilinan.

Garcia and Pangilinan fought over Metro Pacific's bid to amend an agreement it signed concerning the relocation of the PSE's headquarters to the Fort Bonifacio business district.

The PSE board agreed to reinstall Garcia as its president after sacking him. Garcia, however, was made a lame-duck president by a condition that he go on terminal leave until his term expires in March next year.

SO who'll be the next president of the Philippine Stock Exchange? According to sources at the PSE, the candidates are (clockwise from top left): Octavio Espiritu, Jesus Estanislao, Renato Valencia and Vicente Jayme

New rules won't solve Itogon row–Ongpin

By doris C. Dumlao

FORMER Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin has complained to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its revised listing guideline will not resolve the controversial private placement issue involving dormant mining firm Itogon Suyoc Mines Inc.

In a letter to the PSE board dated Nov. 15, Ongpin, who was elected chair of Itogon-Suyoc early this year and whose Philweb.Com Inc. was supposed to take over the mining company, said the new guideline instead made the rule "more onerous for listed companies to make private placements."

The stock exchange earlier revised its listing guidelines to allow certain leeway for legitimate white knights to buy shares of dormant companies at a discount.

PSE head of listings Conchitina Panganiban said, however, that the new guidelines contained strict safety nets against corporate raiders who would simply want to buy shares at rock-bottom prices and then dump them later at the expense of the investing public.

The revised guidelines approved by the PSE board allowed new investors with plans to resuscitate a dormant company to subscribe to new shares at a discount beyond the 10-percent limit set by the bourse vis-à-vis the market price or book value, whichever was higher.

The issuer, however, must seek pre-clearance from the bourse and the minority must give its consent if the allotment of new voting shares will effectively change ownership of the company. These are requirements that Ongpin insists are "illogical" and "impossible to implement."

"A transaction that would result in altering or changing control of the issuer would require the approval of at least a majority, if not two-thirds, of the stockholders owning the issued capital stock. Hence, to require the major shareholders to abstain from voting will result in a failure to muster the votes, which are required for such approval under the Corporation Code," Ongpin told the board.

Ongpin also said it was "onerous" and "presumptuous" of the listing committee to require the submission of a "viable business plan" in determining whether or not the place could provide technical or financial contribution to the issuer. He said such judgment belonged to the listed company's board and not to the PSE's listing committee.

"We believe this is undue interference in a company's business affairs and unjustifiably requires a company to reveal its proprietary or business secrets," Ongpin said.

He also said the requirement that the shares bought through private placement be placed under lock-up constituted "undue interference."

As to the contention that the said guidelines were pattered after practices in Hong Kong and Singapore, Ongpin claimed that:

- Hong Kong and Singapore, while citing "significant public demand," have not defined this term in the restrictive sense, such as when the issue price is at a discount of more than 10 percent to market price;
- Both Singapore and Hong Kong respect the inherent right of a company to determine the issue price; and,
- The Hong kong and Singapore rules principally refer to connected parties and their definition. Rules are meant to apply only in cases of connected party transactions.

Ongpin also noted that a company whose bylaws allowed provisions to deny pre-emptive rights to its stockholders was legally empowered to issue shares to any party.

The revision of the PSE's listing rule was triggered precisely by the controversy over the listing of additional shares sought by Itogon-Suyoc, which is owned by the Ortigas family.

Itogon-Suyoc wanted to list new shares to consummate a buy-in deal with Philweb.com. Itogon-Suyoc, which wanted to shift to the IT business, was supposed to issue new shares to Philweb equivalent to 40 percent of its total shares, although at a much higher discount than the 10 percent allowed by the PSE.

PCA opens national fair

THE PHILIPPINE Constructors Association opened its national fair on Thursday with the optimist's stance of carrying on in hard times to be in place and better prepared for the good times.

PCA president Justo Manalo said his group would provide the positive stimulus and mechanisms to enable its members to weather the downtrend in the construction industry.

The 11th Philconstruct opened at the World Trade Center with the trade sectors of 15 countries through their embassies showing strong participation.

Their continued and strengthened presence provided the clear expression that the Philippine construction industry was a strong player in the regional market.

Philconstruct runs until Nov. 18 and is open to the public.

PCA executive director Lito Madrasto said Philconstruct took on another significant facet of the trade show's relevance as it brought together players in the building and construction industries to plot proactive modes of conducting business in the face of current economic developments.

Two years and still no IPO for Henry Sy's Banco de Oro

By Elena R. Torrijos

ALREADY two years behind schedule, Banco de Oro Universal Bank of retail magnate Henry Sy is again asking for more time to undertake an initial public offering.

Banco de Oro has asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to give it until next year to offer 20 percent of its shares to the public through an IPO, and the central bank is inclined to grant the request given the stock market's bad performance, according to BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes.

"We're required to go into (an IPO for) 10 percent, but we may go into 20 percent of the total value (of Banco de Oro)," Banco de Oro chair Teresita Sy Coson said in an interview earlier this year.

Under the central bank's rules, Banco de Oro is required to sell at least 10 percent of its shares to the public within three years of getting its license as a universal bank.

The bank was supposed to go public over two years ago, but it had been able to convince the central bank to move its deadlines several times.

In May this year, Banco de Oro said it would pursue an IPO in early September.

The bank later announced that it had moved its IPO to the fourth quarter of the year.

Banco de Oro is lining up an IPO to shore up its paid-up capital from P5.6 billion to as much as P14 billion.

In June, Banco de Oro completed its merger with Dao Heng Bank Philippines.

It is now in the process of converting into common shares some P3.5 billion worth of preferred shares. It is also entering into a share-swap deal that will allow it to own its Ortigas-based headquarters and an adjacent property.

A Cayman Islands-registered mutual fund, Cambridge Pacific Fund, is investing at least P2 billion into Banco de Oro.

Banco de Oro earlier filed an IPO prospectus naming BPI Capital Corp. as its lead underwriter.

It plans to file an updated prospectus to reflect the entry of Cambridge Pacific, its merger with Dao Heng Bank, and its share-swap deal and conversion of its preferred shares into common shares.

Islacom banking on re-branding

By Abigail L. Ho

ISLA Communications Inc., a unit of mobile phone giant Globe Telecom Inc., is expecting to mark its turnaround with a positive earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization early next year.

Islacom chief operating officer Gil Genio said in an interview on Thursday that Islacom would reach its "break-even" point by that time.

Genio admitted that Islacom had yet to firm up a schedule regarding its profitability but said "recent movers" would help shore up its revenues.

Islacom's landline brand, "Islaphone", underwent a "re-branding" early this month to carry the "Globelines" brand of its parent company.

"It's good to re-brand because customers already know what it is. What also comes with the brand is the customers' expectation of the service, including pricing," he said.

Genio explained that Islaphone subscribers now enjoyed the same services that Globelines subscribers did, "even the simple things like caller ID."

With its new services, Genio said, Islacom was expecting to sell more landlines in the future.

Islacom currently has the capacity to provide 700,000 landlines.

The re-branded Islacom landlines were now more competitively priced, Genio said. Their P1,700 installation fee was the lowest in the industry, he added.

He also said that rates for both national and international direct dialing were lowered to match those of Globelines, pegged at P3 and 40 US cents a minute.

Genio said Islacom would roll out 400 payphones in the Visayas up to the end of the year, with a target rollout number of another 3,000 payphones by end-2002.

These payphones would also carry the Globelines brand and widen the telecommunications firm's footprint in the Visayas.

Islacom also launched a new cellular line, "Touch Mobile," in mid-September. Since the launch, Islacom has been able to attract 11,000 subscribers.

"There has been consistent take-up. It's not going to be the main brand in the market, but it will serve a particular group who likes simplicity," he said.

DISCLOSURES

MIC Holdings Corp. has hired **Cybersoft Integrated GeoInformatics Inc.** to research and develop its products and services.

* * *

SM Prime Holdings Inc. has confirmed that it will build a high-end shopping center in a joint venture with **Keppel Land Ltd.** of Singapore.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. has denied having any information to explain the 50-percent increase in its share price, which has risen from 6 to 9 centavos.

* * *

ASIATRUST Development Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 7, 2 p.m., at the Mahogany Room of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Stockholders as of Nov. 16 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED as new directors of **Reynolds Philippines Corp.** were Gabriel Jayme and Jose Abelardo Agregado.

* * *

THE ANNUAL stockholders' meeting of **Interport Resources Corp.** was adjourned due to lack of quorum. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, November 16, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	47.5	45	46.5	463,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	284,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	164	167	164	166	95,800
Philippine National Bank	47.5	48	47	47	577,100
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	17.5	16.5	17.5	16,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.5	15.5	14.25	14.25	763,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.27	190,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	221	242	221	242	70
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1380	1380	1380	970
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1115	1120	1105	1115	11,540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.5	24.5	24.25	24.25	17,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	760,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	570	580	570	575	1,500
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.4	20,000
Piltel	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.3	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	385	392.5	380	380	27,980
Ivantage Corp.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.47	250,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.017	0.014	0.017	268,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.75	22.5	21.75	22.5	72,800
Manila Electric Co. B	26	27	26	26.5	4,832,300
Petron Corp.	1.12	1.2	1.12	1.16	12,366,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.38	2,640,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corporation	2	2.02	2	2.02	13,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	307,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	435,600
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.5	12,000
RFM Corporation	1.9	1.94	1.88	1.92	15,284,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	40.5	40	40.5	62,700
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51.5	51	51.5	60,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	50,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.55	4.35	4.55	2,623,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	30,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	300
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.53	0.5	0.5	330,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	15,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	10	9	10	21,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.58	0.52	0.55	20,280,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	2,600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.12	0.1	0.11	6,100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	130,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.67	0.75	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.25	22.75	22.25	22.75	818,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.42	1.52	1.42	1.52	786,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.57	0.59	2,400,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.29	0.25	0.26	23,200,000
Music Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.37	0.38	2,580,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	3,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	880,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	25,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	300,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	340,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	460,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	25,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	200,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.22	0.3	0.22	0.28	240,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	350,000
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24	23.75	23.75	1,509,000
Equitable Pci Bank-War	0.89	0.9	0.89	0.9	60,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	565	565	565	565	970
Jollibee Warrants	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	400
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0008	0.001	0.0008	0.001	79,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	5,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0042	0.0048	0.0042	0.0048	216,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.6	7,376,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	100,000
Cityland Development Corp.	-	-	-	-	-
Cebu Holdings Inc.	-	-	-	-	-
C & P Homes Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.16	940,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.26	4,590,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.2	0.205	3,220,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.22	1.14	1.2	9,072,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	17,000
SM Development Corp.	0.84	0.86	0.84	0.86	270,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.6	3,861,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	10,600,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.14	0.155	0.14	0.155	60,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	13,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	6,800,000
Interport Res.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,400,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,423,380	96,218,410.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	680,367,530	347,554,905.00
PRO	29,456,000	68,641,140.00
Mining	27,810,000	273,950.00
OIL	12,200,000	155,800.00
GRAND TOTALS :	752,256,910	512,844,205.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	405.03	UP 5.81
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,458.67	UP 18.23
PRO	449.62	UP 12.77
Mining	954.71	UP 9.25
OIL	1.17	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	677.31	UP 5.37
Composite	1,033.34	UP 17.48

NO. OF ADVANCES: 53; NO. OF DECLINES: 9; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98 NO. OF TRADES: 3,133

CURRENCIES

Nov. 16, 2001

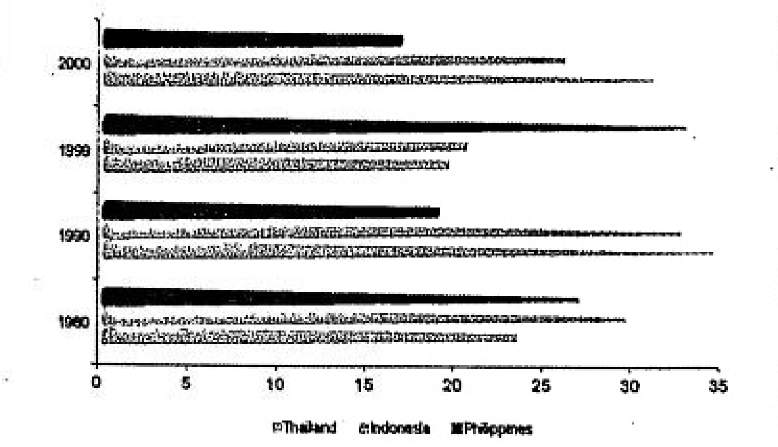
Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.133273	1.000000	52.0440
Japan	Yen	0.009267	0.008177	0.4256
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623300	1.432400	74.5478
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145478	0.128370	6.6809
Switzerland	Franc	0.682284	0.602047	31.3329
Canada	Dollar	0.714096	0.630120	32.7940
Singapore	Dollar	0.618768	0.546001	28.4161
Australia	Dollar	0.587492	0.518403	26.9798
Bahrain	Dinar	3.006169	2.652661	138.0551
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302206	0.266667	13.8784
Brunei	Dollar	0.619814	0.546747	28.4549
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000094	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025507	0.022507	1.1714
UAE	Dirham	0.308625	0.272331	14.1732
Korea	Won	0.000891	0.000786	0.0409
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.882400	45.9236
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.451164	23.4804
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134521	7.0010
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.400416	20.8393
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064127	3.3374
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021874	1.1384
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000456	0.0237
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148409	7.7236
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004401	0.2290
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005303	0.2760
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021874	1.1384
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.120417	58.3110

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Domestic savings ratio*

(1980, 1990, 1999, 2000)



* Domestic savings ratio= gross domestic savings / gross domestic product
Source: World Bank, Asian Development Bank

The Philippines' ratio of domestic savings to gross domestic product deteriorated by 16.1 percentage points to only 16.5 percent in 2000. Both Indonesia and Thailand managed to increase its ratio by 5.5 and 13.4 percentage points, respectively. Low level of savings limits investment and, consequently, economic growth.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Malacañang urged to go slow in opening up vehicle market

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

TOYOTA Motor Corp. Ltd. of Japan is asking the Macapagal administration to shift to low gear in opening up the country's manufacturing sector, specifically the vehicle assembly industry, to competition from imports.

Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd. president Motomobu Takemoto said the Philippines should adopt a step-by-step tariff liberalization to remain competitive with the onset of the Asean Free Trade Area in 2002.

In a speech before the 27th Philippine Business Conference yesterday, Takemoto said the Philippines' plan to cut duties on completely built up vehicle units from 30 percent to 5 percent by 2004 was "too drastic."

He said other Asean countries, notably Thailand and Malaysia, would continue to maintain high duties on CBU imports in order to encourage local vehicle assemblers to buy their parts from local suppliers for a much longer period. This is expected to give these countries' respective automotive parts industries to fully develop before they open up to increased foreign competition.

He noted that even developed countries continued to protect their domestic assemblers with high tariff shields. The US, for instance, imposes a 25-percent duty on its truck imports.

Takemoto said other countries such as Australia saw a surge in CBU imports after lopping off duties on vehicles assembled overseas. He said Australia's CBU duties were slashed to 15 percent and this boosted the share of CBUs in the market to 68 percent.

Toyota and other Japanese assemblers have long criticized the Philippines for hastening the liberalization process after they have put in substantial amount of money to build their plants in the country.

Aside from a slower liberalization pace, Takemoto said the government should maintain a stable policy environment to sharpen the country's competitiveness. "Certain policy changes might discourage investments and injure the market. If the policy is not stable, industries would not grow."

He also stressed the need for the Philippines and its peers in Asean to implement Afta as scheduled and sustain a united front in attracting investments into the region by harmonizing technical standards and regulations. "The entry of China into the WTO (World Trade Organization) poses a big challenge to Asean. If Asean is divided, it cannot compete effectively," Takemoto said.

Toyota's strategy in Asean is to cut its costs by jacking up its purchase of local parts, establish a full range lineup, develop regional marketing initiatives and introducing affordable vehicles that meet local requirements.

IMF cuts global growth forecast, sees no recession

(From page B1)

States would be cut to 1.1 percent in 2001 instead of 1.3 percent, and in 2002 the forecast would be 0.7-percent growth instead of 2.2 percent.

US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill disputed the IMF forecast for US economic growth in 2002, saying the figure of 0.7 percent was "off by a lot."

The treasury chief said the US administration's stimulus efforts are likely to boost US gross domestic product growth by 0.5 to one percentage point over the next 18 months.

Japan's economic recovery was seen as being further delayed. The IMF said the Japanese economy would show a contraction of 0.9 percent this year instead of 0.5 percent seen in September. For 2002, the Japanese economy is forecast to shrink 1.3 percent compared with an initial forecast of 0.2-percent growth.

Developing countries will see 2001 growth of 4 percent compared with an initial forecast of 4.3 percent and for 2002 will see growth of 4.4 percent instead of 5.3 percent, the IMF said.

For Asia, the forecast for 2001 was put at 5.6 percent in 2001 instead of 5.8 percent and 5.6 percent in 2002 instead of 6.2 percent, the IMF said. *AFP*

Napocor losses hit ₱5B in Sept.

By RONNEL W. DOMINGO

NATIONAL Power Corp. president Jesus Alcordo said on Wednesday that the agency's losses already reached P5 billion, its whole year projection, as of September.

Alcordo, however, expressed confidence that despite the September level, this year's losses will still be lower than last year's P16 billion.

"We should be able to bring down our losses this year to P9 billion," he said.

Napocor is expecting higher sales this year compared with last year's level.

Alcordo said the state firm sustained a net loss of only P1.79 billion in the first half of 2001.

"Sales for that period was almost 7-percent higher than projected. Our business is very volume-sensitive," he explained.

In August, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. announced that Napocor's return on rate base rose to 4.99 percent in the first five months of the year from year-ago level of 1.58 percent. RORB is a measure of a company's profitability.

Perez said the improvement in Napocor's RORB was due to the 69.3-percent reduction of its losses in the first five months to P1.93 billion from P6.29 billion in the same period last year.

Napocor documents attributed the improvement to the higher-than-expected sales volume and improved operating ratio (operating expenses to net utility revenue).

Also, the World Bank has agreed in June to scrap the 8-percent RORB requirement provided in its loan covenant with Napocor, the document showed.

During the period under review, the power firm's regular sales increased by 5.4 percent, while its one-day power sales went up by 92.2 percent.

Its operating ratio reached 90 percent compared with 96 percent in 2000.

However, the lower operating ratio was offset by a P496-million increase in interest expense due to high foreign exchange rate levels during the period.

The peso hit a high of 49.66 to the dollar in May compared with 40 to the dollar in the same month last year.

RP eyes coal supply from Indonesia, China

NATIONAL Power Corp. is putting on hold the auctions for its 2002 coal supply requirements as it studies possible government-to-government supply arrangements with Indonesia and China.

"The bidding for Napocor's coal needs for next year have been indefinitely postponed. We have no plans yet on whether to pursue the auctions and when to do it," Alcordo said in an interview.

He said the prospective G2G (government to government) coal supply arrangements could be done between the Indonesian Coal Miners Association (ICMA) and Philippine National Oil Co.'s coal subsidiary, PNOC Coal Corp.

However, Alcordo said that all of Napocor's coal purchases would still be done through a competitive process, referring to Napocor's newly adopted electronic bidding system.

"To bag a supply contract with Napocor, PNOC-Coal Corp. must be competitive with other suppliers," Alcordo said.

He added that in principle Napocor had nothing against a G2G arrangement, but added that the power agency would be extra careful of this because there were past G2G arrangements that "were not favorable to Napocor."

"We want to make sure that in the commercial aspect and in the implementation of the G2G arrangements, Napocor's interest will be protected," the Napocor chief said.

In an interview last week, PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan said the state firm was working with the Indonesian government on a deal involving the supply of one million tons of coal per year.

The coal that ICMA will provide will come from newly opened, small-scale mines in Indonesia.

Also, an industry source said that Chinese coal suppliers were looking into a similar arrangement through their government.

BPI-DBS deal OKd

By ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE MONETARY BOARD, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, has approved the Bank of the Philippine Island's acquisition of the entire stake of DBS Bank Philippines from DBS Bank of Singapore, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said.

BPI Family Bank, BPI's thrift banking arm, last September agreed to acquire DBS Bank for P1.6 billion.

In an interview, BPI president Xavier Loinaz said that the closing documents should be signed while the actual payment would be made by Tuesday next week.

DBS Bank Phil.'s regular commercial bank license will be surrendered to the BSP as BPI has junked plans to upgrade BPI Family into a commercial bank through a merger with DBS Bank Phils.

The acquisition is expected to cement BPI Family's position as the country's largest thrift bank and increase the number of its branches to 120.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has yet to approve the acquisition, Loinaz said.

DBS decided to sell its local banking unit because it wanted to focus its Philippine investments on its 20-percent stake in BPI.

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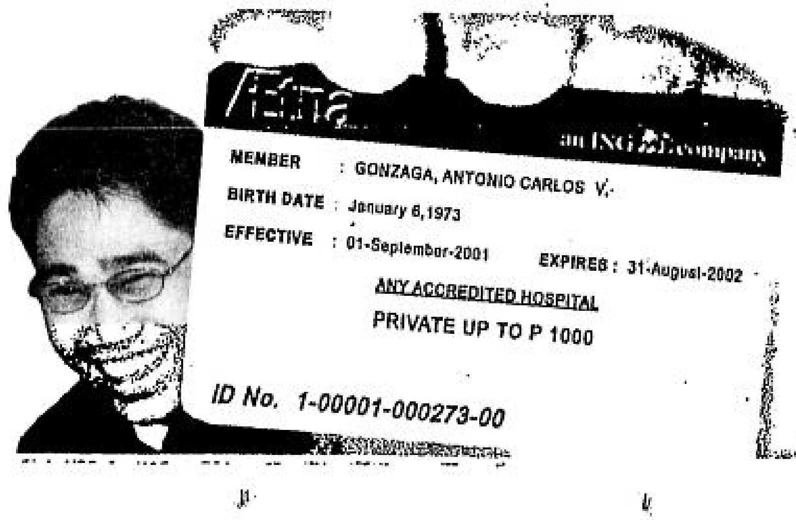

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of Apolinaria Molina Antazo is extra judicially settled among her heirs per Doc. # 428, Page # 87, Book # XXV, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Manuel I. Sabado (PDI-Nov.10, 17&24, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MANUEL DE LARA VILLAMAYOR has been extra-judicially settled by his heirs on May 31, 2001 under Doc# 70, Page# 15, Book# 12, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Atty. Wilfredo T. Albarico of Rizal -PDI 11-3,10,17,2001

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that an official receipt no. A038024 of **Tricom Dynamics, Inc.**, was lost last November 1, 2001 at Araneta Avenue, Q.C. (PDI-Nov. 10, 17 & 24, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources
2nd Floor ICC Bldg. NIA Complex
EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION FOR NGOs TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Regional Office No. IV invites Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to prequalify and bid for services to implement Community Organizing work in Honda Bay, Pto. Princesa City, Palawan under the Income Diversification Component of the Fisheries Resources Management Project (FRMP).

BAY	PROVINCE	CITY	COASTAL BARANGAYS
Honday Bay	Palawan	Puerto Princesa	Langogan, Binduyan, Concepcion, Tanabag, San Rafael, Manalo, Babuyan, Maayon, Lucbuan, Maroyugon, Salvacion, Sta. Cruz, Bacungan, Sta. Lourdes, Tagburos, San Jose, San Manuel, San Miguel

NGOs that are to be considered for prequalification must have at least five years relevant experience on community organizing for coastal resource management and livelihood development in the province and city mentioned above.

The general scope of work involves organizations work to establish community based organization; continuing assistance to the community organizations to build up membership and develop leadership and capability in undertaking coastal resource management and micro-enterprise activities; and assistance in FRMP implementation at local levels.

Amount the specific activities to be undertaken by the selected NGO include:

1. Strengthening of fisherfolk associations and other self-help groups in the coastal communities to engage in income diversification and micro-enterprise activities;
2. Initiation of primary cooperatives to essentially become multi-purpose cooperatives, giving more attention to complementation of water-based and land-based activities;
3. Assist BFAR in the conduct of education and training that is focused in mobilizing the organizational capability of their cooperatives to access external opportunities and potentials towards empowerment.
4. Assist BFAR in the conduct of LGU planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of various CRM concepts and best practices; and
5. Continue the unfinished scope of work by the previous contracted NGO in the said Bay.

Interested NGOs must submit notarized prequalification statements together with the required documents to the BFAR Regional Office No. IV which have jurisdiction over the areas where they are interested in working. Documents must be properly "tabbed" to correspond with each pre-qualification requirement and should be received not later than 5:00 P.M. on NOVEMBER 23, 2001. Attention: The Chairperson, Prequalification, Evaluation and Awards Committee. Forms for prequalification may be obtained from the BFAR Regional Office No. IV.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR MS. ROSA F. MACAS
ADDRESS: 2/F ICC Bldg., NIA Road, NIA Compound, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City
CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS: 926-8616 (Telefax); 926-1901, 926-6071 to 79 Local 192, 193 & 194

BFAR Regional Office No. IV reserves the right to reject any or all bids as well as to waive any defect or informality in the submitted bid documents. It also reserves the prerogative to accept any bid it may consider as most responsive and advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ROSA F. MACAS
Regional Director

(PDI--Nov. 15, 16 & 17, 2001)

ALL NURSES

(IHS) Integrated Health Services, the industry leader in post-medical care with 350 facilities across the United States is offering

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Ormoc City (Dec. 19)
Davao City (Dec. 21-22)
General Santos City (Dec. 26)

For more information:
text: (0919) 845-3481
(0919) 616-3047
call: (02) 455-3856, 455-4358

or e-mail us at:
yourcareerlink@yahoo.com
louiseccc@yahoo.com
lori.schuetz@ihs-inc.com

Just bring two (2) clear copies of the following requirements:

1. CGFNS Certificate*
2. B.S.N. Diploma
3. PRC License
4. Picture page from Passport
5. Board Exam Rating
6. Transcript of Records
7. Resumé with 2x2 pictures
8. Work Certificates

** Those who are just waiting for their CGFNS result may also apply.*

SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Building 255 Barryman Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines 2222
Tel. Nos. (047) 252-4276 * 4214 * 4124 FAX NO. (047) 252-4204

November 16, 2001

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY ("SBMA"), through the Bids and Awards Committee ("BAC") invites duly registered Firms, Suppliers/Contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

I ONE (1) UNIT 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK
II HANDHELD RADIO TRANCEIVERS
III CONFERENCE ROOM FURNITURES FOR COMMAND CENTER, BLDG. 229, SBFZ
IV MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE CUTTING, TRIMMING, PRUNING OF TREES ENCROACHING OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION LINES

The following documents are necessary for the pre-qualification as a supplier/contractor for the above-mentioned public bidding:

1. Article of Incorporation
2. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration
3. Certificate of Registration with the Dept. of Trade and Industry (if not Corporation)
4. Valid Mayor's Permit
5. VAT Registration
6. Audited Financial Statement for the last two (2) years (certified true copy in sealed envelope)
7. Presence of Exclusive/Authorized/Sole Distributorship Agreement with reputable firms in the industry, document duly notarized at the point of origin.
8. Company PROFILE
9. List of Products
10. List of Clients
11. Non-refundable Pre-qualification fee (P200.00)

Submission of the above pre-qualification documents is until 5:00 p.m. of **November 23, 2001** (Friday), at the BAC Secretariat, PPMD Office, Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Firms qualified by the SBMA and dates for the Pre-bid Conference and Submission/Opening of Bids shall be announced through Bid Bulletin.

The SBMA assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any firm for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of pre-qualification requirements. The decision of the SBMA on who are qualified to bid shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. RIZAL V. KATALBAS JR.**
Secretary, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

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PNOC COAL CORPORATION
Building 2, Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-1320/893-6001 locals 2208 & 4332
Fax No. (632) 840-1872 Telefax: (632) 893-0232

INVITATION TO BID

The PNOC Coal Corporation (PCC) invites prequalified/accredited contractors to submit sealed bids for the:

HIGHTERAGE SERVICES
(CN 01-012)

Bid documents may be secured from the Administrative Department (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) starting November 21, 2001 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS: Five Hundred (P500.00).

Sealed bids in two (2) sets shall be received by the Administrative Department not later than 2:00 o'clock p.m. of December 5, 2001 and then publicly opened at 2:30 p.m. of the same date at the above address.

For the purpose of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **November 28, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at the PNOC-CC Conference Room, Bldg. 2, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.**

PCC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PCC.

(Sgd.) **CRISTINA B. BERIN**
Chairwoman
Bidding and Award Committee

(PDI - Nov 17, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following residential/commercial/industrial properties on an "As-is-Where-is" basis

I. SECOND TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM	TERMS
004	1 lot, 14,092 sqm.	Vitas, Tondo Manila	PhP16,000.00	CASH OR INSTALLMENT (5 years @ 18% p.a.)
005-070	[illegible] lots, 240 to 10,995 sqm. With TCTs	Sapang Palay, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	PhP700.00 to PhP1,170.00	CASH

II. FIRST TENDER

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/SQM	TERMS
001-013	13 lots, 60 to 225 sqm. With TCTs	Kadungganan Village Project, Sagkahan Tacloban	PhP1,600.00 to PhP2,800.00	CASH
014-016	3 foreclosed apartment units	Hermosa Street San Francisco Del Monte Quezon City	PhP852,000.00 to PhP970,000.00	CASH, with 10% retention payable upon availability of title

Interested parties may purchase one/any or all of the properties offered, details of which may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the COINBAC c/o CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Building, Diliman, Quezon City. For Tacloban properties, bidding materials are available in the Kadungganan Project Office. For inquiry, please call Evelyn V. Ramos or Neli A. Bubido at the following telephone numbers 923-0390, 922-3001 and 926-4561 local 302-303.

SCHEDULE	ALL PROPERTIES (Except Tacloban)	Kadungganan, TACLOBAN
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	November 12 to 22, 2001 until 5:00 p.m. CIED, Mezzanine	November 19 to December 4 until 5:00 p.m. Kadungganan Village Project Calanipawan Road, Sagkahan District, Tacloban City
B. Pre-Bid Conference	November 19, 2001 10:00 a.m. Operations Center Third Floor, NHA Building	December 4, 2001 11:00 a.m. KVP Office, Tacloban City
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	November 28, 2001 up to 12 noon Operations Center	December 6, 2001 up to 12 noon KVP Office, Tacloban City
D. Opening of Bids	November 28, 2001 1:30 p.m. Operations Center	December 6, 2001 2:00 p.m. KVP Office, Tacloban City

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
& Chairman COINBAC

(PDI – Nov. 10 & 17, 2001)

National Mapping and Resource Information Authority
Coast and Geodetic Surveys Department

Competitive Entrance Examinations For Probationary Ensigns

Date: **December 16, 2001 0800H**

Qualifications:
1. Male Graduate of CE, GE, ME, EE, ECE, CoE
2. Passed Board or CS Professional Exam
3. Physically fit, good vision, height 1.62 m
4. Not more than 29 years old

Examination Subjects:
Part I-General Engineering Science and Mathematics
Part II-English Grammar, Correct Usage and Composition

Submit applications on or before December 12, 2001 to:
CGSD, NAMRIA, 421 Barraca Street, San Nicolas, Manila.
Attention: Lcdr. Romeo I. Ho or Ltsg Amante R. Caluya Jr.
Or fax to: 02-2422090
For info: call **02-241-3494 to 97 loc. 104, or 2422955 direct**

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: *sssemail@info.com.ph* • Web site *http://www.sss.gov.ph*

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARY	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	MAILA ABAINZA	Unknown	MANUEL P. ABAINZA SS No. 03-3163939-9	March 20, 2001
2)	GERARDO ACOSTA	367 Champaca I, Parang, Marikina City	OFELIA ACOSTA SS No. 03-6669596-8	April 22, 2001
3)	CAROLINA AGUINALDO	76 E. Dr. Sixto Antonio Rosario Pasig City	REYNALDO AGUINALDO SS No. 03-2682861-0	March 24, 2001
4)	LEONILA ALDEZA	Brgy. San Isidro, Padilla, Antipolo, Rizal	SIMON ALDEZA JR. SS No. 03-2398226-1	April 9, 1992
5)	SANDRAS ALMENDRAS	Saint Claire, Concepcion, Marikina	REYNALDO ALMENDRAS SS No. 03-1893033-8	February 16, 2001
6)	ANITA SANDOVAL	100-E1 Old Samson Road, Balintawak, Quezon City	JOSE BITANTES SS No. 33-0497021-5	March 7, 2001
7)	TERESITA SUMAGAYSAY	Biñan, Laguna	MANUEL R. CARPIO SS No. 03-2348229-5	March 28, 2001
8)	SANDRA BUNTOK	Paral St., Sta. Mesa, Manila	JAIME CONEJOS SS No. 03-4222212-2	August 12, 1997
9)	ROMEO CUYNO	Poblacion Bonifacio, Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental	JOSEFINA Q. CUYNO SS No. 08-0640092-7	May 28, 2001
10)	ERLINDA DE BELEN	177 M.H. del Pilar St., San Mateo, Rizal	ROGELIO DE LUMEN SS No. 03-1609462-9	May 13, 1999
11)	PRISCILLA CABALUNA	Unknown	RICARDO DELA PEÑA SS No. 03-2398305-3	September 9, 2001
12)	ARMANDO ENRIQUEZ	Biñan, Laguna	GARY ENRIQUEZ SS No. 33-0227898-0	May 18, 2001
13)	ROSE FLORES	M.H. del Pilar, Jaro, Iloilo City	JOSE L. FLORES SS No. 07-0843444-4	June 2, 1999
14)	YOLANDA G. GAMBOA VILMA LEANDA FROILAN	27 Tawi Tawi, Sta. Lucia, Pasig City	ARISTEO LEANDA SS No. 04-0193818-2	September 15, 2001
15)	LYDIA QUILING	Pasig City,	VIRGILIO LEGASPI SS No. 03-1987596-8	May 20, 2001
16)	SUSAN D. MALLARI	Sampaga, San Vicente, Apalit, Pampanga	NORBERTO C. MALLARI JR SS No. 03-5521042-2	June 23, 2001
17)	JESSICA F. MANALO, DENNIS JOSEPH, DESIRE JANE & RAYMOND	10 Bayani St., Concepcion I, Marikina City	RAMON MANALO SS No. 03-3885607-8	December 15, 2001
18)	EDITHA OREIRO	Cavalier Village, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City	ROLANDO C. OREIRO SS No. 03-3617407-9	June 25, 2001
19)	DORIS PEREZ	Maligaya, Tarlac City	ISABELO P. PEREZ SS No. 02-1038110-6	September 24, 2001
20)	LAIDA TINA	Quezon Province	RODRIGO M. QUIRIMIT SS No. 01-0110319-4	August 1, 2001
21)	ALBERTO P. CRUZ	Unknown	PERLITA N. RAMOS SS No. 03-3864936-6	August 30, 2001
22)	HELEN R. SARMIENTO	Unknown	MARIO SARMIENTO SS No. 03-7586276-6	August 26, 2001
23)	FLORA BANTILES	Tondo, Manila	DOMINADOR TOLEDO SS No. 03-3999403-6	July 15, 2001
24)	GRETCHEN TORRES	Camiling, Tarlac	PETRA S. TORRES SS No. 06-0363371-9	June 7, 2001
25)	LEO VERA CRUZ	San Pedro Hospital, Davao City	MARIA TERESA VERA CRUZ SS No. 09-0490425-7	August 25, 2001

-----Nothing Follows------

(PDI - Nov. 17, 2001)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the provision of Janitorial, Security and Engineering Maintenance Services to the Institute for CY 2002.

Interested parties may secure bid form upon payment of non-refundable bidder's fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) from the Property and Supply Department c/o Ms. Mae Marie E. Hernandez from **November 19, 2001** from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (excluding holidays and weekends).

The following schedules will be followed:

Type of Services	Deadline of Submission of Pre-Qualification Documents is at 4:00 p.m.	Bid Conference for Qualified Bidders Venue & Time	Bid Opening	Venue & Time
Janitorial	November 29, 2001	December 5, 2001 Executive Lounge 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	December 7, 2001	Executive Lounge 9:00 a.m.
Security	November 29, 2001	December 5, 2001 Executive Lounge 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	December 7, 2001	Executive Lounge 1:30 p.m.
Engineering Maintenance	November 29, 2001	December 5, 2001 Executive Lounge 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.	December 7, 2001	Executive Lounge 3:00 p.m.

Interested Bidders are required to submit the following pre-qualification documents not later than the above mentioned schedule on pre-qualification:

1. SEC registration certificate with articles of incorporation (copy should be properly notarized)/DTI business name registration
2. Mayor's Permit/Municipal License
3. BIR value added tax registration
4. List of clients in the past 5 years
5. Certification of performance for existing clients (except RITM)
6. Organizational Profile that includes a list of employees, their qualification(s) and applicable professional licenses.
7. Inventory of existing equipment
8. Audited Financial Statements stamped "received' by the BIR for the last two calendar years

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference. Attendance to the Pre-Bid Conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to waive his right to participate.

Sealed bids must be submitted on the scheduled day of bid opening accompanied by a bid security in the amount equivalent to two and a half percent (2½%) of the total bid price. The bid security may be in the form of cash, Cashier's or Manager's check, bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank, letter of credit issued by a commercial bank, surety bond callable on demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner or any combination thereof. Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals. Letters of authority to represent and sign documents must be properly notarized.

RITM reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality therein and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Institute.

(Sgd.) **REMIGIO M. OLVEDA M.D., CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

SLRC-2001-12A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 03, 2001; 2:00 PM	
A1A - A1E	40 PCS	COMPUTER SOFTWARE (WINDOWS 2000, OFFICE XP, ANTIVIRUS) (COMPRISE OF 5 PRS)	VARIOUS PRS.
A2	1 LOT	COMPUTER CASING/HARDWARES	3CSA01-110
A3	1 LOT	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS/HARDWARES	3ADM01-197
A4	40 PCS	ACCOUSTIC BOARD	3ADM01-193
A5	15 REEL	WIRE (OVER HEAD GROUND WIRE)	3PTG01-051
A6	1 LOT	REPAIR OF DENTAL EQUIPMENT	3ADM01-191
A7A - A7B	1 LOT	DENTAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES	3ADM01-195 3ADM01-196
A8A - A8B	1 LOT	EXECUTIVE CHAIRS, STEEL CABINET	3PTG01-052 3PTG01-056
A9	2 UNITS	RENTAL OF COPYING MACHINE	3ADM01-211
A10	1 LOT	ELECTRICAL CONDUIT/WIRES, TERMINAL LUGS, CABLE TIES, ETC.	3OPO01-010
		DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 04, 2001; 2:00 PM	
B1	4 SETS	CLIMBER SET	3CNA01-088
B2	200 PCS	INSULATOR	3CSA01-212
B3	3 SETS	REBUILDING/OVERHAULING KITS	3ALB01-193
B4	1 LOT	WEDGE CONNECTORS, TERMINAL LUGS	3CBA01-186
B5	12 SETS	HEAD LAMP	3LAG01-036
B6	1 LOT	TRANSDUCER, POWER SUPPLY, RELAY	3NCS01-105
B7	1 PC	HAGEN BATTERY AG	3NCS01-111
B8	1 LOT	HIGH VELOCITY FILTERS	NCS2001-104
B9A - B9C	1 LOT	VEHICLE SPARE PARTS (3ADM01-212/214/216)	VARIOUS PRS
B10	1 LOT	JOB ORDER: BODY REPAIR, PAINTING, ELECTRICAL OF MITSUBISHI PAJERO	3ADM01-215
		DATE OF BIDDING: DECEMBER 05, 2001; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 LOT	OVERHAULING MATERIALS	3TIW01-0020
C2	1 LOT	COMPUTER PERIPHERALS	3IMD01-0002
C3	1 LOT	FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT	3TIW01-0026
C4	1 SET	JOINT FLEXIBLE COUPLING	3TIW01-0036
C5	2 SETS	PUMP-85 KW MOTOR OUTPUT INCLUDES INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING	3TIW01-0024
C6	2 PCS	COUPLING, FLEXIBLE DIAPHRAGM	3MAK01-385
C7	1 LOT	WIRE TROLLEY, BOARD, BOLT, ETC.	3MAK01-494

Schedules C1-C7 bidding shall be handled by GENCO-6 Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **November 20, 2001**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **November 26, 2001** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock p.m. on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidderrs or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action.

(Sgd.) **R. D. RAMS**
Manager, Administration
Transco South

(PDI - Nov. 17, 2001)

Pampanga II Electric Cooperative, Inc.
San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. No. 900-0689, 900-0474
Fax No. (045) 900-0092

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the SUPPLY and DELIVERY of:

Package 016-S-2001:	**KWH METER, GE 1-70 S, 3W with BASE 240 V (Recon) - 5,000 pcs.**
Package 017-S-2001:	**BX Wire #8 2 Wire Stranded - 50 rolls**
Package 018-S-2001:	**STEEL POLES, Octagonal (ISO Certified) 35 Feet - 50 pcs. 30 Feet - 50 pcs.**

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga from **November 19, 2001** to **November 22, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m. on **November 22, 2001.**

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900-0474 or 900-0650.

(Sgd.) **ENER D. PANGAN**
Chairman
PELCO II - PBAC

(PDI - Nov. 16, 17 & 18, 2001)

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SOLEDAD (CHOLENG) MARTINEZ vda. de SALANGUIT

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 15, 2001 at the age of 92.
widow of the late **MAXIMINO G. SALANGUIT**
of Sta. Ana, Bulacan, Bulacan and Nasugbu, Batangas

Her loving children **JAIME (†)**, **ERNESTO** and **BARBARA ARESPACOCHAGA**, **ANGELITA** and **LEOPOLDO PUJANTE**, **IMELDA** and **PEPING PILAPIL**

Grandchildren:
Marigela and **Dindo Facundo**
Jimmy Boy and **Dulce Minda Velez**
Mita and **Jojo dela Rama**
Nonot
Michael and **Judith Romero**
Coach Tonichi
Leo and **Rona delos Reyes**
Eric and **Marissa Bernardo**
Pamela
Anacel
Annalee and PJ

Great grandchildren:
Pia
Maica
Rica
Paolo
Julio
Ramon
Joaquin
Champ
Lui Ann
Adrian
Camille
Shao
Aaron
Adrina

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon Avenue until Sunday, November 18, 2001 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. The remains will be brought to Nasugbu, Batangas.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 20, 2001 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Francis Xavier Parish Church.

ATTY. FAUSTINO YAMZON BAUTISTA

Died in the Grace of Our Lord on November 14, 2001
at the age of 89

AFTER RECEIVING THE LAST SACRAMENT

His wife **PRIMITIVA CERVANTES**; children and in-laws **ERLINDA** and **RAMON MADRID**, **FELICISIMO** and **LOURDES**, **PRUDENCE** and **AMANDO GASPAR**, **VIRGINIA** and **NAPO DE LEON**, **ANTONIO** and **EVELYN**; brothers **FLORENCIO** (†), **BUENAVENTURA** (†), **AURELIO**; sisters **CANDIDA BAUTISTA** (†), **JUSTA** and **RITA JUTA**; grandchildren and other relatives request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Rd., Parañaque with a Memorial Service on Saturday, November 17 at 8:00 p.m. Funeral Mass will be offered at Benedictine Abbey Church, Alabang Hills Subd. on November 18, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. before interment at 4:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

With faith in the Resurrection,
We announce the passing of our beloved

ESPERANZA GONZALEZ-LUKBAN

into Eternal Life

She peacefully joined her Creator
on the 15th day of November 2001 at the age of 88.

She is survived by her children **Juny & Nina Rosete, Rene & Lydia Ramos, Fred & Pudy Punsalan**; grandchildren **Wo, Jo, Patit & Tonton Rosete, Vincent, Noah & Chewey Punsalan**; great granddaughter **Arielle Rosete**; brother-in-law **Felizardo Aguila**; sister-in-law **Pura Gonzalez**; nieces, nephews and dedicated caregivers.

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City.

Details of interment will be announced later.

"I am the resurrection and the life
he who believes in Me will live, eventhough he dies;
and whoever believes in Me will never die."

DR. PABLITO G. BAQUIRAN

of Dingras, Ilocos Norte and Las Piñas US-Philippine Holdings
Former Training and Development Manager
Zuellig - Pharma

Was called home by his Creator to join his beloved wife Norma Roman and parents Brigido S. Baquiran and Isidra Gonzalez.

He was a loving father to **Dra. Didi** and **Mon Masa**, **Randy** and **Maritess (Ng)**, **Dr. Ferdie** and **Deanna (Batino)**. Devoted grandfather to **R.G.**, **Rachel Angela**, **Norman** and **Maio**. Eldest brother of **Angel** and **Teresing**, **Tony** and **Ellen**, **Teddy** (†) and **Linda**, **Letty** and **Felix Albano**, **Evelyn** and **Jessie** (†) **Maninang**, and **Magdalen** and **Tony Clemente**. Son-in-law of **Dr. Generoso** and **Soledad Roman**. Stepson of **Filomena Gilo**.

His remains lie in state at St. Jerome and Sta. Susana West Chapel, Alabang Town Center.

Interment will be on Wednesday, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Our Dearly Beloved

Atty. LAURENTE "LARRY" C. ILAGAN

City Legal Officer, Davao City

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 15, 2001 at the age of 55.

A loving husband to former City Councilor **Luzviminda Calolot Ilagan**, caring father to **Leandro Bernardo** and **Arlene Sargullia**; **Lauro Tito** and **Gail Tan**; **Leo Amado** and **Leonides**, doting grandfather to **Liane** and **Sage**, kind brother to **Lilian** and **Jun Hizon**, and **Ven** and **Carolyn Sereno**.

Lawyer, human rights defender, teacher and a friend to many.

We, the members of the family, relatives and friends request prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Presidential Chapel, Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Camus Ext., Davao City.

Interment will be on November 18, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. at the Davao Memorial Park after a 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Ateneo College Chapel, Jacinto, Davao City.

In Loving Memory
on the **2nd Death Anniversary** of

MARILOU C. LLAGAS

Who died in the Grace of our Lord on November 17, 1999.

The family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

Masses offered:
San Clemente Parish, *Angono, Rizal* 7:00 PM
Christ the King Parish, *Taytay, Rizal* 7:00 AM

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Juan "Maning" dela Cruz

Who died on November 5, 2001

would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who condoled with us during our time of bereavement.

"Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord
and let perpetual light shine upon him,
may he rest in peace."

ENRIQUE FLORENTINO SALONGA JR. (IKKY)

Joined his Creator on November 15, 2001 (Thursday) at the age of 31.

He is mourned by his brothers **Eddie** and **Ogie Salonga**; together with sisters-in-law **Cecille** and **Nancy**; nephews and nieces **Chachi**, **Chicco**, **Chini**, **Carlo**, **Julio** and **Francine** and their respective relatives.

The family requests the readers to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills.

Interment will be at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque on Sunday, November 18, 2001 after the Mass at 2:00 PM.

Eternal
life
will
swallow up
that which
can die.
God made
us for this
very reason
and He
has given us
the Spirit
as a
guarantee
that we will
live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Heavenly fireworks light up skies tomorrow

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

If you're not doing anything tomorrow night, head to the rooftop, lie down and watch this month's heavenly spectacle—a Leonid meteor shower. After all, what could be more thrilling than seeing the heavens light up by meteors falling like raindrops during a cool night?

If the sky is clear, the best time to observe the phenomenon is from 11 p.m. tomorrow until very early morning Monday, according to Fr. Victor Badillo of the Philippine Astronomical Society.

"This weekend is what we call the peak period when more meteors strike the atmosphere than any other nights. In fact, the Leonid meteor shower lasts from Nov. 14 to 21 when the Earth passes through a region of dusty trails shed by the comet Tempel-Tuttle," explains Badillo.

The meteors form when dust and ice pellets no larger than apple seeds hit the Earth's atmosphere at 65 kilometers a second and burn up. The shooting stars and fireballs can dart anywhere overhead, but all appear to come from the direction of the constellation Leo, which gives the shower its name.

"You don't even have to locate Leo to see the shower. Just select a place that is clear, dark and unobstructed. Since most meteors aren't terribly bright, it helps to get away from city lights," Badillo said.

"The last-quarter moon wouldn't be a problem, although it might blot out some of the fainter meteors. And don't forget to bring warm clothes for November's cooler nights," reminds the priest.

Highly anticipated

Compared to the annual meteor rains such as the Perseids in August, Orionids in October, and the Geminids in December, the Leonids are among the least predictable in terms of the number of falling meteors per hour.

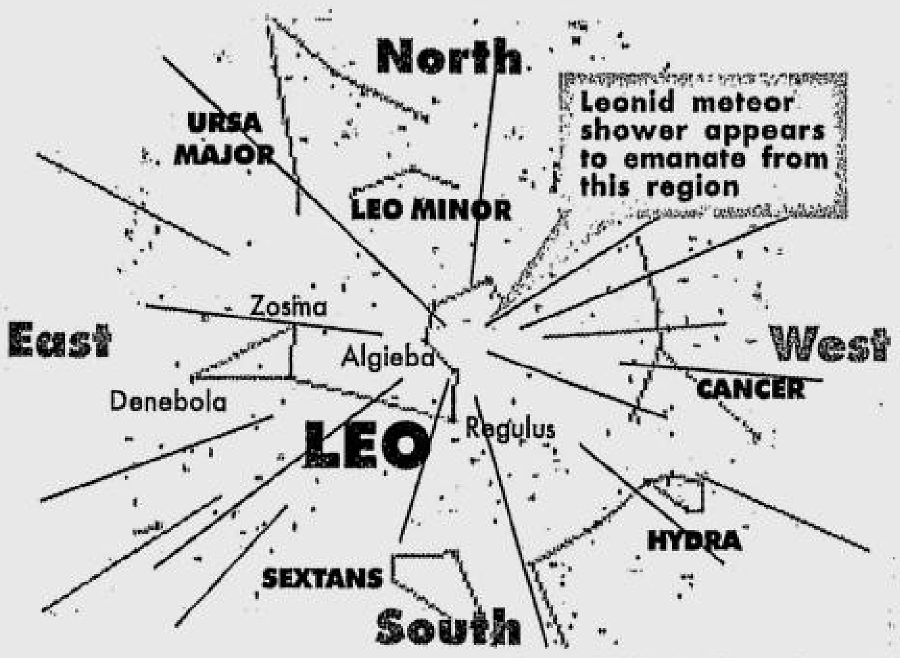
Two experts who successfully predicted the 1999 Leonid storm foresee good storm (intensified meteor shower) prospects for this year and the next. David Asher and Robert McNaught of the Australian National University had carefully examined the motions of particles ejected from comet Tempel-Tuttle in the last 200 years. And they predicted that this year's single-observer hourly rates could possibly reach 10,000 to 35,000.

Filipino astronomers remain hopeful about what they can expect tomorrow.

"While there's no guarantee, we predict an impressive meteor shower display on various times from Sunday night up to the wee hours of Monday morning," said James Kevin Ty, PAS president.

According to Ty, there will be three "predicted peak times."

On Nov. 18, the expected shower rate is between 800 and 2,500 meteors per hour.



GRAPHICS AND ILLUSTRATION: CHARLES E. BUBAN

At a glance

- The Leonids are dust particles shed by comet Tempel-Tuttle. Like a truck barreling down a dirt road, the comet trails a cloud of dust as it orbits the sun once every 33 years.
- When the comet sweeps close to the sun, the sun's heat causes it to shed more debris, like a truck hitting a mud puddle. Earth gets splattered when it plows through the thick wake. It occurs every November for a few years until the particles dissipate.
- While meteor displays thrill amateur stargazers, they also hold promise. Comets are hurtling balls of ice and debris left over from the birth of the solar system more than four billion years ago.
- People are safe during a meteor shower because the tiny particles tend to burn kilometers away from Earth. In fact, the visible meteor is actually the streak of light caused by the particle, or meteoroid, that is generating friction against the atmosphere.
- But in space, the tiniest debris behaves like a speeding bullet. Satellite operators are turning their orbiting equipment edge-on into the storm so that delicate sensors and solar energy arrays will not be crippled by the barrage. *AP*

"This is the first peak time but it will happen at 5:55 p.m. and dusk will greatly obscure the observation," said Ty.

The better peak times, according to Ty, will happen on Nov. 19 at 1:24 a.m. (2,000 to 9,000 meteors per hour) and at 2:13 a.m. (8,000 to 15,000 meteors per hour).

The PAS set up several observation posts: at the roof deck of the Manila Observatory at the Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City; in Binangonan, Rizal; and at the University of the Philippines Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development, E. Quirino Avenue, UP Diliman. These sites will be open to the public.

Ty himself will go to Bicol to catch the meteor shower spectacle.

Leonids in history

The Leonid shower is named after the constellation of Leo, the region in the heavens from which the meteors seem to originate. Actually they come from a thin dust stream of tiny meteors, ejected over the centuries by comet Tempel-Tuttle as it passes near the sun every 33 years.

The earliest account of the comet was recorded in A.D. 868 when it crossed the Earth's orbit for the first time. Shortly thereafter, Chinese astronomers reported seeing the first Leonid storm in A.D. 902. Numerous accounts followed during the next centuries reporting about "stars (that) fell like rain."

One of the first scientific account of a Leonid storm was by Alexander von Humboldt, a Prussian explorer who witnessed the 1799 storm during his exploration of the Orinoco in Venezuela. His account of meteors pouring from the sky was recounted in his multivolume report on his South American expeditions.

The modern study of meteors started in 1833. The Leonid shower that happened that year in North America led to the recognition of Leonid storms in historical records going back to A.D. 902.

It was only later when a comet was found to be the parent of the Leonid meteor storm.

William Tempel and Horace Tuttle observed the comet in December 1865 and January 1866, respectively. Since then, Leonid meteor showers were no longer a mystery.

Defending the Church

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

A READER'S (C. J. Feld's) letter to this column (April 21, 2001) detailing some abuses through the history of the Roman Catholic Church sparked considerable interest and passionate letters from other readers. Bernadette Mendoza (bme1226@yahoo.com) of Phase 6, AFPOVAI, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City had the most reasonable (and best-researched) response, and I am sharing it with all of you here:

I note the reader's interest in Christian history and ancient languages. It is gratifying to see someone with such an interest and I would like to encourage it. However, I also noted certain inaccuracies and sweeping generalizations in this writer's statements on the Catholic Church's history.

Human weakness has always played its part in this portion of history from the very beginning. Judas Iscariot, personally handpicked by Jesus to be one of His Apostles, already practiced corruption by stealing from the common fund that he was in charge of. Judas of course earned enduring infamy by turning over his Teacher to His enemies for 30 pieces of silver.

The Acts of the Apostles and the epistles are replete with problems that the Christian communities were facing among themselves, including the probability that some Christians practiced swindling or defamation, because some of them were taking out lawsuits against one another. The rest of church history is a showcase of some very sorry tales of intrigue and venality even at the hierarchy.

No less than Blessed Josemaria Escriva, who to the end of his life manifested constant love for and fidelity to the Catholic Church, declared that he "lost his innocence" when he was finally exposed to the clerical circles in Rome. That was in the late 1940s and he was beatified in 1992.

However, the Catholic Church never covered up the dark splotches and veins running through the tapestry of its history. It is unavoidable, as the biographies of its saints are often the sources of these scandalous revelations. But as historians have always pointed out, it must be a sign of divine grace that misdeeds are seen and denounced (at least in history) for what they are. In fact, lessons were often derived from them, serving to clarify and define doctrinal points, disciplinary practices, guidelines and criteria. No matter how high up certain wrongdoers climbed up in the hierarchy, even to the papal office, they never succeeded in tampering with the Church's teachings, especially on morals. The deposit of faith remains intact, producing in every age saints among those who draw their vital motivation from it.

The allegation that the Catholic Church supported Hitler and Mussolini is entirely false. Albert Einstein, a German Jew, categorically stated that the Church was the only institution that had the guts to denounce Nazism in his country. The Church in the Netherlands criticized the invading Nazis so severely that, in retaliation, the Nazis (earlier and more brutally than originally planned) aggressively rounded up and deported Jews to concentration camps. No doubt the Vatican learned from this the lesson of discretion in dealing with the enemy. Still, the Vatican vigorously protested against the rounding up of Jews in Italy, causing a delay in its continuation and in the deportation of captured Jews to camps. Mussolini's government, wishing to please the Nazi government, overrode the Vatican's protests and legalized the inhuman operation of the capture of Jews.

Meanwhile, the Vatican had secretly mobilized the clergy and the religious to hide and smuggle the majority of Jews out of the Nazi grasp. Italy is known to have the highest survival rate of Jews, eight or nine times higher compared to all the other Nazi-controlled states during World War II. Pope Pius XII, during whose pontificate WWII happened, is revered and defended by many Jewish historians, and by those Jews whose escape or survival they attribute to his swift, secret rescue operations. Many Italian churches carry plaques expressing the gratitude of Jews to the Catholics who helped them during the war. The diary of Adolf Eichmann, a top Nazi officer who was executed in Israel in the 1960s, revealed the deep suspicion that Nazis had for the Vatican even before—and certainly throughout—the war. The Israeli government released the diary's contents to the public only in February 2000, in preparation for Pope John Paul II's historic visit there.

The Church, through the Pope, has apologized for the Catholics who have actively espoused Nazism or were indifferent to its atrocities. The Church has not apologized for supporting Hitler's government as an institution, because it never did. (The Church in France earlier apologized for the passivity of its members during the war.) The Church has likewise refused to apologize for Pope Pius XII's cautious policies during WWII, and has not withdrawn his candidacy for beatification.

I hope these notes on Church history will be mentioned in your column. So much misinformation is going around, and it is unfair to the persons and institution concerned, as well as those who are taken in. By the way, I would like to refer C. J. Feld and other readers to the Daily Catholic website (www.dailycatholic.rog) and the electronic libraries maintained by EWTN (www.ewtn.org) and the Vatican (www.vatican.va) for further information on Church history. Thank you very much and may God bless you.

Thank you for your mail. Yes, I agree that there are some Catholics who do not practice what their faith teaches, but then again there are many who imitate Christ to the best of their ability. Isn't it a wonder, though, that the Church has endured throughout history on the backs of fallible human beings? God be praised! If this is not a miracle, then I don't know what is.

* * *

Gemmo Ortiz [gemmo@thomasians. net] has this request:

May I have a copy of your issue on Simon Magus and the King James Bible (July 7, 2000)?

Go to www.inq7.net and click on the archives button. Type in the date of publication, and you should still find the article there.

ASK THE DENTIST

PAUL R. DE CASTRO, DMD

Unfinished root canal

I had a root canal started on my tooth last year because I was in severe pain. It has not hurt since then. I know I was supposed to go back but I was busy and partly lazy so I did not. If it does not hurt me, it should be okay, right?

Joey V.

An unfinished root canal will be another source of possible infection. Your temporary filling is leaking at this very moment and bacteria are growing in your tooth, causing more extensive damage. Your tooth could have a problem right now such as decay and bacterial accumulation, but you wouldn't know it because the damage is being done at a very slow pace. It might be harder to fix the tooth the longer you delay the treatment because more tooth structure will be weakened by the bacteria.

Have the root canal finished and a final filling placed so that your tooth will be sealed from decay would be the right thing to do.

* * *

(Dr. De Castro, a UP College of Dentistry graduate, is a cosmetic and general dentist licensed in the Philippines and the United States. Questions are welcome at dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

Experts say Asian hair needs more conditioning

A STRAND of hair has a diameter of between 0.05 and 0.15 mm. This holds true among Western people, but not always among Asians.

Asian hair is thicker and coarser, making it more susceptible to surface damage due to combing, brushing, heating, chemical treatment, or plain exposure to the elements over time.

Nonetheless, the problem can be solved easily through the regular use of the right hair conditioner.

Unfortunately, most Asian women hardly use that product because they think that 2-in-1 (shampoo with conditioner) is enough, or that applying conditioner after shampooing is inconvenient since it adds another step to the whole process.

And while many are unaware of the hair care benefits of conditioner, the informed others simply don't want the additional cost because of economic reasons.

This market trend in Asia was revealed by research and development expert Chetan Yagnik of Procter & Gamble, maker of Pantene shampoo and conditioner.

Speaking at the Pantene Forum on Hair Science and Product Technology held recently in Bangkok, Thailand, Yagnik said that without conditioner, the hair's health could deteriorate.

He cited split ends, dryness, dullness, limpness or weakness, and lack of body as among the symptoms of unhealthy and unmanageable hair.

"Conditioner combats all these symptoms of unhealthy hair," Yagnik adds. "It makes hair stronger but softer and manageable, protects it from damage and breakage, optimizes moisture retention, and enhances its natural color and shine."

This is made possible by the conditioner's nourishing effect while providing a protective layer or coating on the hair surface.

At present, there are two types of conditioner: rinse-off and rinse-free.

A rinse-off conditioner, which is applied and then rinsed, releases its active ingredients in the form of occlusive film that serves as a protective coating around the hair surface, making it soft and shiny.

On the other hand, a rinse-free conditioner can be used anytime and anywhere since rinsing is not required. Using an aqueous base with polymeric thickeners and light conditioning system that do not interact with hair oil, a rinse-free conditioner moisturizes hair and makes it easier to comb while reducing damage and generating a clean feeling.

Both types of conditioner can help bring about the end-look that women want for their hair. The end-look is the desired result or what they specifically want their hair to be.

The case of the phantom illnesses

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO,MD

CLARISSA M. was a freshman premedical student in a prestigious university in Quezon City. She left her family in Cebu and stayed in a dormitory near her school. Clarissa was very anxious for two reasons: It was her first time to be separated from her family, making her feel terribly homesick from time to time, and she was afraid that she might not be able to cope with the high standards of her new school.

Reading volumes of medical books, aside from her usual premedical textbooks, was her only outlet to ease her anxiety and to give her a feeling of early preparedness over her classmates. However, a little and inadequate knowledge could be harmful. She read a little too much too soon. She became overwhelmed with a lot of medical information and started imagining all the signs and symptoms of the diseases she has read.

Out of control

Although physically healthy, Clarissa worried a lot that she might be sick. Her fear got out of control when she started checking her body several times a day, spending a lot of time consulting different doctors, and even surfing health sites on the Internet.

Barely a semester in her premed course, she diagnosed herself as having multiple sclerosis and cancer .

"I am terrified. I can't help but feel I'm going to die soon. I lock myself in my room and just cry terribly," Clarissa wrote her parents, who hurriedly went to Manila.

Clarissa is suffering from hypochondriasis.

Phantom illness

A lot of people like Clarissa, when exposed to stress and provided access to literatures and information on an illness, may have a tendency to believe and convince themselves, their family and even their doctors that they have the illness they've been reading about. These affected individuals with hypochondriasis may not realize that their symptoms are more imagined than real. Hence, some authors have rightfully described it as suffering from a phantom illness.

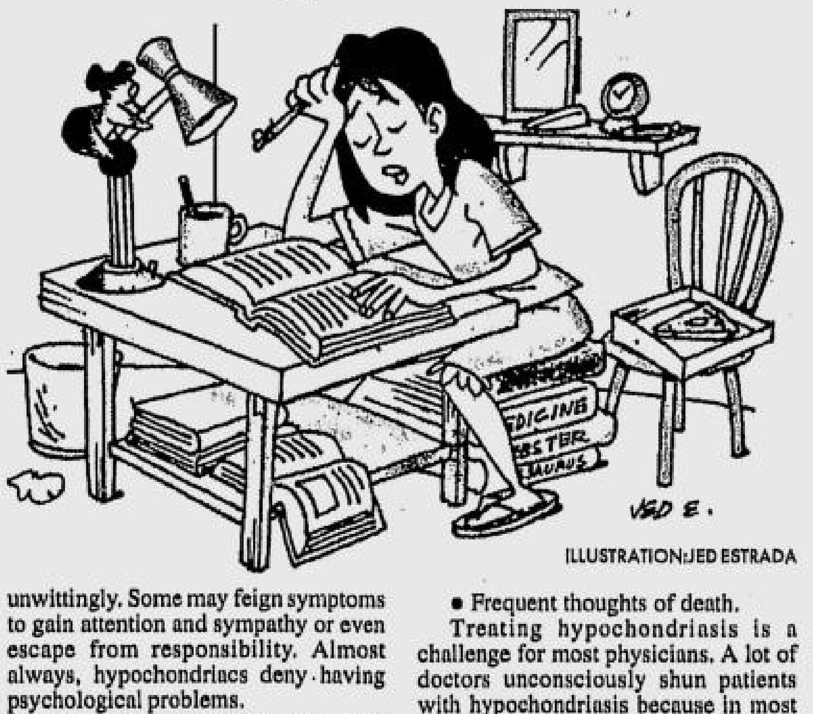


ILLUSTRATION:JED ESTRADA

In some cases, it may be a compensatory mechanism, wittingly or unwittingly. Some may feign symptoms to gain attention and sympathy or even escape from responsibility. Almost always, hypochondriacs deny having psychological problems.

MEDICAL FILES

A hypochondriac is deeply obsessed with physical health and body. The problem is characterized by generalized anxiety symptoms. The diagnosis is made when a person persistently believes, fears or is convinced that he has a serious disease despite medical reassurance. The fear of disease or obsession with symptoms becomes unhealthy because it interferes with the patient's daily life in a negative way and leads to unnecessary medical examinations and treatment. The patient can only temporarily accept assurance that there is no physical explanation to his symptoms.

Symptoms

Warning signs of hypochondriasis include the following:

- Frequent visits to the doctor.
- Obsession on a disease that no doctor has diagnosed.
- Rejection of a doctor's reassurance that there is nothing seriously wrong.
- Checking the body many times a day/week for peculiarities.
- Preoccupation with an illness that is seen on television or in the newspaper.
- Excessive concern about fear or pain.
- Frequent thoughts of death.

Treating hypochondriasis is a challenge for most physicians. A lot of doctors unconsciously shun patients with hypochondriasis because in most cases they recognize it but don't know how to manage the patient's resistance to sound medical advice. Doctors end up feeling helpless and frustrated because they feel they can't help. So they send patients for tests to convince them that they're healthy. They end up overtesting the patient and sometimes, even being brutally frank with them just so they will go away and stop pestering the doctor with their imagined symptoms.

In the case of Clarissa, her hypochondriasis might have been partly caused by her struggle at her newly experienced independence. Being alone and away from home there are times when she longed for the pampering and babying she used to get back home.

Being "sick" was a way of soliciting care and attention.

Stress-related disease

Hypochondriasis is generally a stress-related disease. For many, it could be a way to get a "time-out" from these stresses. However, affected individuals do not realize that thinking that one is sick may actually be more stressing. Because of hypochondriasis, Clarissa found it difficult to socialize with her classmates and concentrate on her studies.

Even after several doctors diagnosed her as having hypochondriasis, Clarissa still insisted that she had a serious disease. Clarissa was referred to a psychiatrist who regularly conducted regular psychotherapy sessions. They made quick progress; Clarissa immediately started to understand the root causes of her hypochondriac nature. She was initially placed on some medications to relax her and make her overcome her depression, but after a few weeks, she was off most medications.

Social interaction

Clarissa's doctor has encouraged her to socialize more. Seeking social support is an important aspect in the treatment and psychological rehabilitation of hypochondriacs.

Social interactions with family, friends, the community and co-workers improve one's ability to cope with stress and enhances one's overall mental health. People who have friends and those who can express their feelings adjust and handle their problems better.

Clarissa was also advised to focus on activities that could make her feel better. She developed a hobby and engaged actively in volleyball, her favorite sports. She learned to live a healthy life by eating nutritious and well-balanced meals, having adequate rest and performing regular exercise, especially during times when she felt under stress again.

Clarissa has slowly gone back to the mainstream of her school activities. She still dreams to be a doctor someday. This early, she has decided she wants to be a psychiatrist so she can also help others who may fall into the same trap she had fallen, and luckily got out of.

(Medical files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some information have been changed to hide the patient's identity. Aside from the medical information, it stresses the socio-psychological impact of disease on the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president and current chair of the Specialty Board of Adult Cardiology of the Philippine Heart Association/ Philippine College of Cardiology. For comments or inquiries, e-mail raffymd@i-manila.com.)

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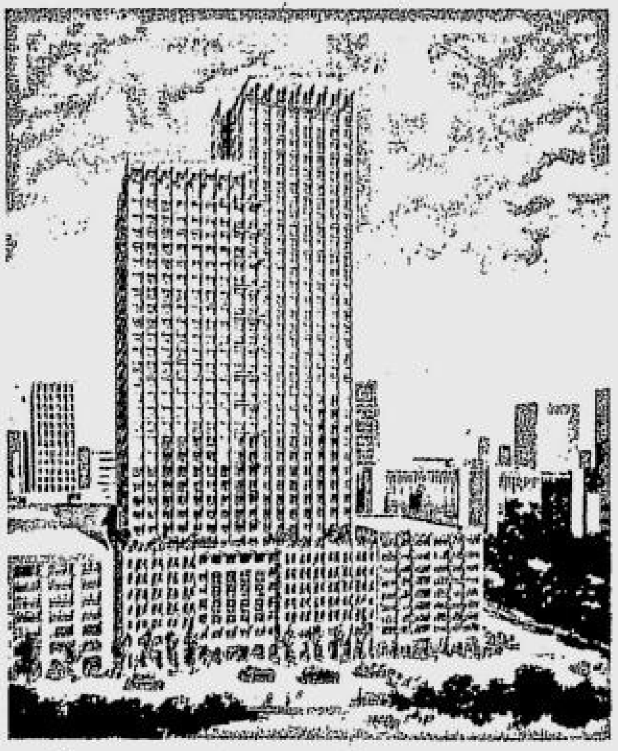

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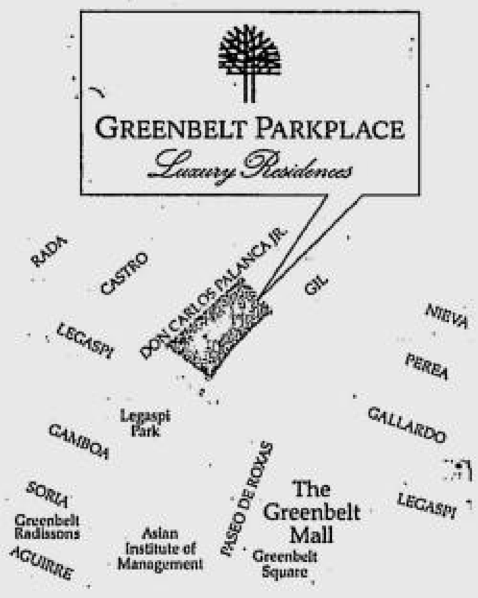
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Treat of the Week

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17,2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1

Saturday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Tropical Whip

1 small ripe mango, peeled and sliced
1/2 small ripe papaya, peeled, seeded and sliced
1/2 cup ice cold water or 1 cup shaved ice
2 tbsps. sugar or to taste
1 170g can NESTLÉ CREAM

Combine fruits in a bowl; purée in a blender (or mash and pass through a sieve). Blend in rest of ingredients. Pour into individual glasses. Top with mango slices to garnish if desired.

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Watch out for next week's fruity treat!

Musical seeks to depict Diana as a heroine

By Melissa Eddy

FRANKFURT, Germany—In a bold move to honor Princess Diana as heroine on the scale of "Evita" or "Aida," a new musical focusing on the life of the beloved British princess opens this weekend in southern Germany.

Memorial

Unlike the 1998 West End hit comedy "Love Upon the Throne," which poked fun at the royals' romantic escapades, "Lady Di—Diana—A Smile Charms the World,"—the first musical to portray the princess—is intended as a "memorial" to the woman whose warmth and humanity redefined the House of Windsor.

German producer Karl-Heinz Stracke, who was in London at the time of Diana's death in 1997, said he was so struck by the outpouring of grief that he decided to honor the princess the only way he knew how—through music.

Nevertheless, he waited several years before bringing the production to the stage. The musical, which opens Saturday in the southwestern German city of Saarbruecken, follows Diana's life from her fairy-tale wedding to her untimely death.

"Discussions are underway regarding taking the show to London, but that would be another two or three years from now, out of respect," said Stracke, 79, a former opera singer who was director of the Theater des Westens in Berlin before forming his own production company.

British actors

The cast of 40 is overwhelmingly made up of British actors, although the show will initially be performed in German. While many had experience singing in German, the spoken parts of the script demanded they undergo six months of intensive language training to make sure they could understand—and therefore convey—what they were saying.

"For the longest time I wasn't able to even think about the acting, I was concentrating so hard on the language thinking that nobody in the audience would understand me," said Karen Gillingham, 28, who stars as Diana.

Despite the linguistic hurdles, Stracke felt that a cast from across the English Channel could bring a certain British flair and knowledge of the royal family to the stage.

"You don't have to tell a Brit how to portray a British butler, they understand that in a way we don't," said Stracke.

The 2-million mark ($1 million) production will tour Germany and several neighboring countries through the end of the year. Next year, an English-language version is to go up on European stages in Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg and Sweden.

According to Stracke's production company, ticket sales in Germany so far have been steady.

Written by Volker Fuehrer, the musical depicts Diana as a woman who struggles to cope with the responsibilities and pressures of the royal life into which she has married.

Psychological portrait

"I tried to make it a psychological portrait, reflecting her strengths and weaknesses," said Fuehrer. "Charles and Camilla also play a role and it is the interaction between these three people that is the basis of the story."

MUSICAL/p.C3

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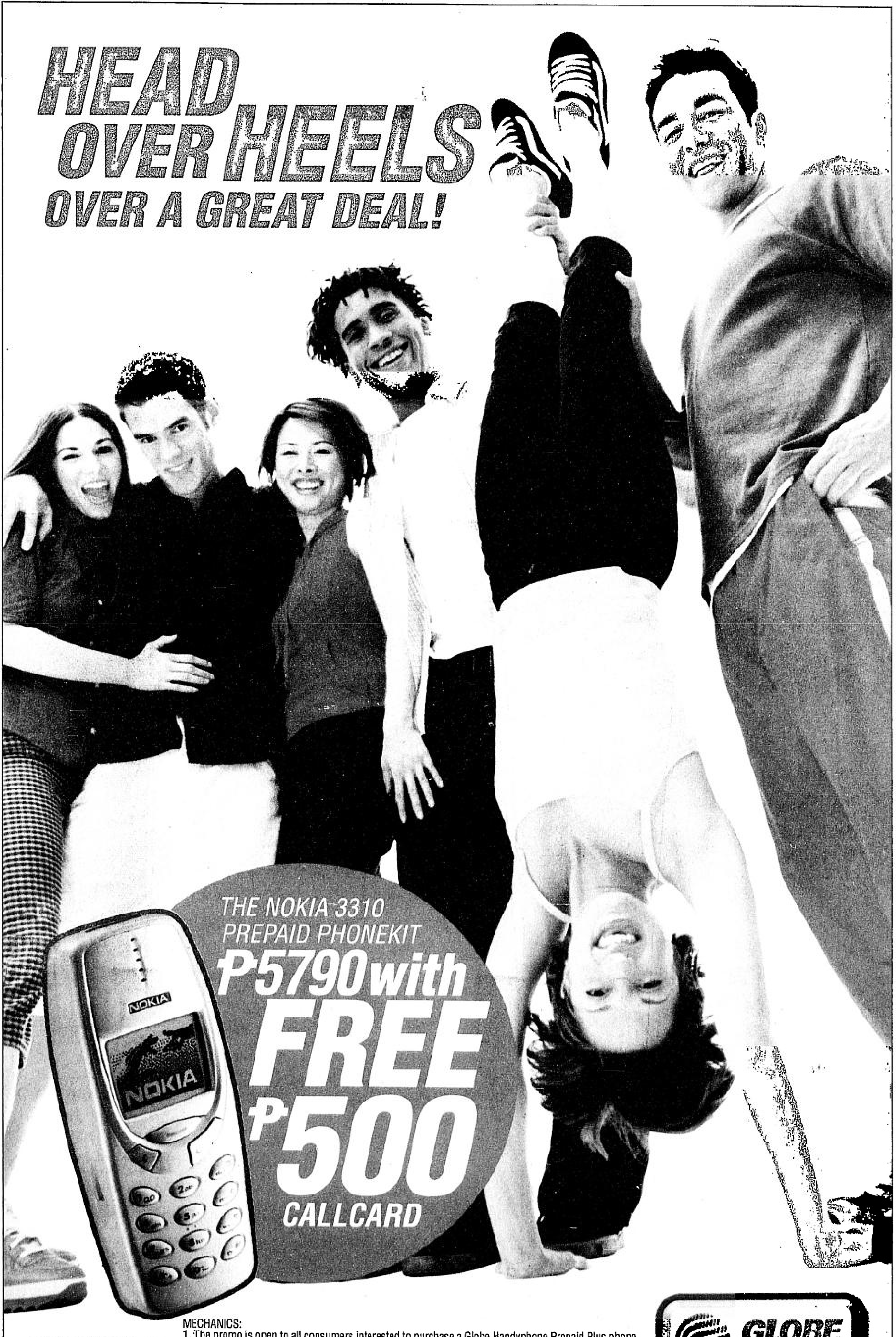
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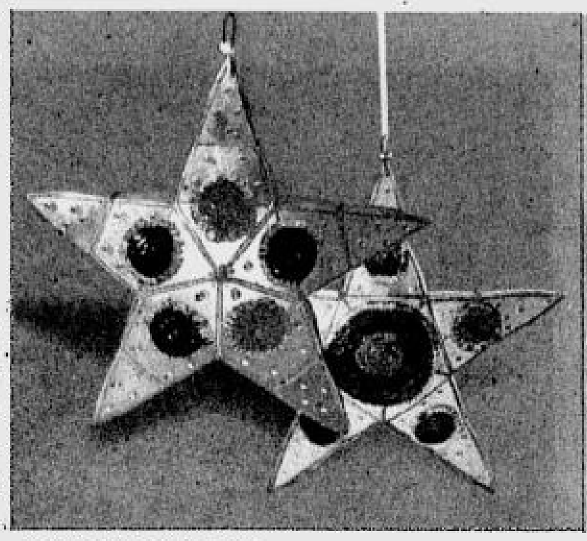

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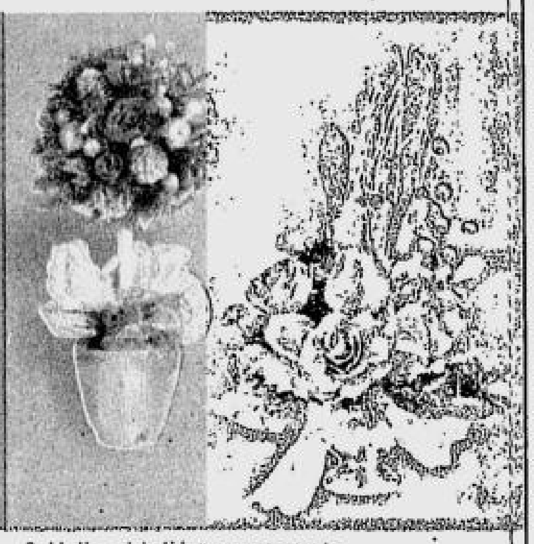

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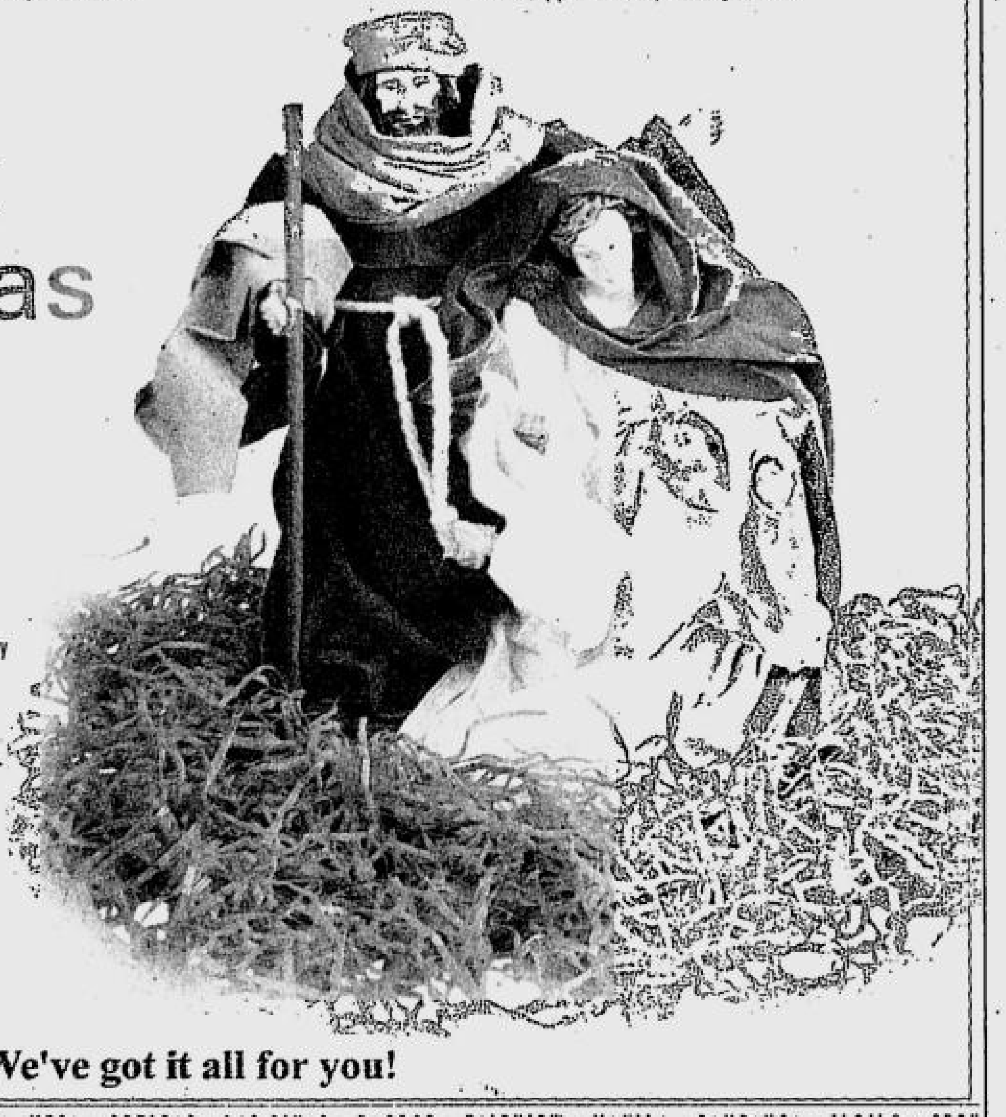

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CHILDREN discover they have magical powers in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

Long wait is over for 'Harry Potter' film

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LONG wait is over: Before the end of the month, the much-awaited "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" will start its run in Metro Manila. Our bet is that the movie will be the biggest hit of Film Year 2001, and advance word supports that "prediction."

A colleague who's already seen the movie says that it fully vivifies the imaginative elements of the book on which it has been based, and that it held his interest from start to finish, despite it unusual length.

Abroad, the movie is making even bigger waves, It sold a whopping 500,000 tickets even before its official opening day in England, so capacity crowds can be expected for weeks on end, once the movie is finally shown.

Anniversary concert

The Philippine Male Chorale celebrates its 23rd anniversary with a concert, "Hearts & Songs," at Abelardo Hall at UP Diliman tonight. The show will raise funds for charity patients and the PMC's other social-service projects. Sponsors are Boehringer Ingelheim, Bigay-Puso Foundation and Avon. For tickets or donations, call Noel Columbres at tel. no. 948-4856.

Band lineup at Bedrock

Bedrock Bar and Grill Restaurant (1782 M. Adriatico st., Malate) showcases performances by these bands this month: Mondays, R.O.B. and XZC. Tuesdays, Sould Out and New Level. Wednesdays, Elements and Degree. Thursdays, Shoop and MMC. Fridays, Skin and Policy. Saturdays, Sound Minds and Excel. And Sundays, Civil Eyes and Limited Edition.

Tribute to Nida Blanca

At 5 p.m. today, "Viva Box Office" (IBC-13) pays tribute to the late and much-lamented Nida Blanca by screening her 1984 film, "Saan Darating ang Umaga," co-starring her with Nestor de Villa, Maricel Soriano and Jaypee de Guzman.

Other films in the tribute series: Nov. 19 at 6:30 p.m., "Magdusa Ka" with Dina Bonnevie and Dindo Fernando. Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m., "Forgive and Forget" with Sharon Cuneta. And Nov. 22 at 6:30 p.m., "Sa Hirap at Ginhawa," with Sharon and Gabby Concepcion.

MTV VJ Hunt finals

The MTV VJ Hunt 2001 finals night unreels at 7 p.m. today at SM

LONG/ p.C3

Health phenomenon:
GAP IN GROWTH RATE AMONG SCHOOL AGE KIDS.

The critical period in a child's growth happens after the toddler years. It is the stage where the weight and height gained during infancy progressively lessen over the years until the child reaches puberty.

This is physically evident in changes of the child's body proportion: "the head looks smaller in relation to the rest of the body, the fingers and toes grow longer and the limbs straighten out."* Increase in height is also slow, picking up only when the child enters his adolescent years.

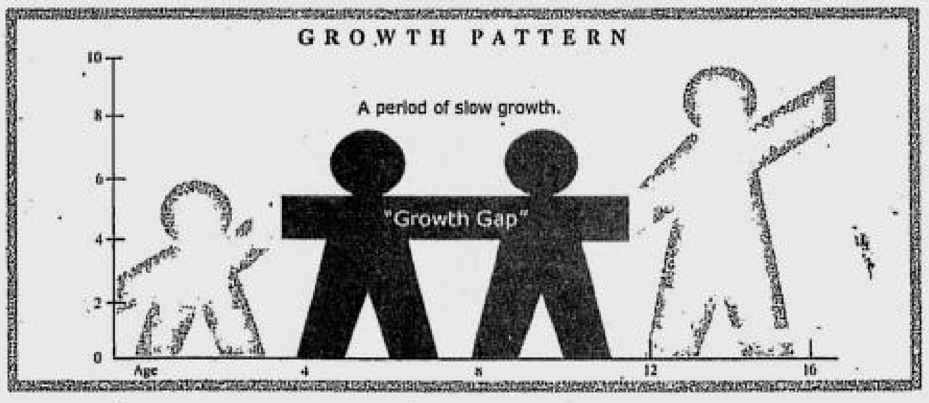
Gary Valenciano and his daughter, Kiana warns parents of slow growth during the school age years in the latest Alaska advertising campaign.

THE A-B-C's OF SLOW GROWTH

There are many factors that affect growth, namely: genetic, environmental/social, and emotional. "If the parents are tall," it is probable that the child will also grow up to be tall. If the child hails from the upper socio-economic class, he or she has more chances of getting proper nutrition and lesser risks of sickness. Love, emotional support and security can also affect growth as they influence the growth hormones in the body."**

Increased physical activity can also hamper a child's growth for he can lose a lot of the energy he needs.

Although growth varies from one child to another, the school age is still a common phase where every child experiences a slowing down in his growth. In its recent advertising campaign, Alaska Powdered Filled milk addresses this phenomenon, referring to it as the "Growth Gap" years.



MILK: IT GROWS ON YOU

Calling this phenomenon out is a way of letting parents know the importance of proper nutrition during the school age years. A proper meal can help the child's proper growth. As school begins, the child pays less attention to what he eats. Snacks, although delicious, can never suffice for proper nutrition.

One way to help your child cope with slow growth and lack of proper nutrition during his school age years is to give him milk. Calcium & the extra proteins in milk can induce faster growth and make-up for the less nutritious food a child at this age is prone to eating, like ready-to-eat meals and fast food.

Make milk a vital part of your child's diet. Because milk can spell the difference for his growth during the school-age years.

---

* Smallfolk.com

** Prof. [illegible] Luna, Dept. of Family Life & Child Development, University of the Philippines.

Long wait is over for 'Harry Potter' film

(From page C2)

Megamall's Megastrip, with Sandwich, 7 Shots of Wisdom and Andrew E as special guests.

To be judged on their delivery, hosting and presentation skills are finalists Mickey Randall, Jauren Cunanan, Derek Ramsay, Louie Tortuya, Carlos Ramos, Anna Shier, Mich Astudillo, Monique del Mar, Charms Espina and Mary Ann Sansano.

'Classical Encounters'

Artist-restaurateur George Moran Sison presents Chola Navarro's The Class Act in a dinner concert series every Saturday starting today at 8 p.m. at the trendy Stars of Giorgio restaurant (2297 Pasong Tamo ext., Makati—at the Equitable & Ibank bldg.).

Featured singers are Josephine Roces and Samuel B. Velasco, pianist Mary Anne Baclau accompanying. Program includes "Be My Love," "Because," "Torna a Sorrento," "O Sole Mio," "Matinata," "Jurame," "Nessun Dorma," "Mon Coeur Souvre a la Voix," "Habanera," excerpts from "The Merry Widow," "Indian Love Call," "With a Song in My Heart," "As Time Goes By," "All The Things You Are," "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes" and other Porter and Gershwin classics.

On Nov. 24, the featured singers are Aileen Cura and Elmo Makil.

VELASCO. Sings at Stars of Giorgio tonight.

Mickey Randall
Mary Ann Sansano
Louie Tortuya
Anna Shier
Jauren Cunanan
Mich Astudillo
Derek Ramsay
Monique del Mar
Carlos Ramos
Charms Espina

MTV VJ FINALISTS. Winners will be chosen at Megamall's Megastrip today.

Musical seeks to depict Diana as a heroine

(From page C1)

For reasons of delicacy, an actor will not portray Prince Charles. Charles, instead, speaks through Diana's secretary.

Despite such precautions, the script was passed through several libel lawyers.

Fuehrer said he culled through mountains of press material, as well as reading all the biographies by British and American authors before he set down to write the script.

"After that I had to forget all the rumors and the nonsense and then begin anew with what I felt was the essence of Diana," he said.

Set before 22 different backdrops ranging from elaborate palaces to a menacing oversized camera intended to represent the paparazzi who hounded her until her death, many of the scenes recreate public elements of Diana's life. Still others seek to explore the private princess the world was never allowed to see.

Scrapbooks

"It was the behind-closed-doors scenes that really challenged me," said Gillingham, who prepared for the role partly by going through her grandmother's scrapbooks of the British Royal family.

"It forced me to see her (Diana) differently than I did before."

Still, Gillingham says she was surprised by how much she had absorbed about the princess from television broadcasts throughout her childhood in England.

"I knew more than I thought I knew," said Gillingham. "Because growing up in England you just can't help but be interested in someone like Diana." *AP*

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

ABC-5 joins the battle of the game shows

BY EDMUND L. SICAM

ABC-5 has joined the fray. The network has acquired what it calls "the three kings" of game shows. Starting Monday, Nov. 19 "Wheel of Fortune," hosted by Rustom Padilla, will air at 7:30 p.m. followed at 8 p.m. by "Family Feud," hosted by Ogie Alcasid. The two shows will air Mondays to Saturdays. Then on Sunday, Nov. 25, the hour long "The Price is Right," hosted by Dawn Zulueta will premiere at 7:30 p.m. It will be telecast weekly.

Excerpts

Of the three, Ogie has the most experience with game shows having handled "Fast Break" and "Game na Game." It showed in the excerpts shown to the press last Monday. He was relaxed and had a lot of rapport with the contestants. The format of the show allowed Ogie to highlight his humorous side. Rustom, on the other hand, was more restrained and concentrated on the mechanics of the game. His assistant, Victoria London, like her American counterpart Vanna White, had the unchallenging job of revealing the letters.

According to the press handout, she will be wearing a designer gown for every episode so, doing some computations, we figured she shall have worn some 300 gowns in one year. We asked her if she gets to keep them and whether she would hold a garage sale in a year's time. Victoria told us that she gets to keep the gowns that she likes and no, there will be no garage sale.

Dawn was still scheduled to tape her inaugural episode this weekend so there were no samples to be shown. Why did she come out of semi-retirement? Someone kidded that probably, the price was right. No comment on that one from Dawn but she did say that the assignment required her to tape only twice a month so she didn't have to leave her idyllic life in Davao. She will only be in Manila six days in a month so that's just fine with her.

She's not closing her door to movie offers but she's very choosy about the project. "Larawan," which Armida Siguion Reyna's production outfit was supposed to do, would have been ideal, but it's now on hold.

Dawn loves the slow pace in Davao and being wife to businessman Anton Lagdameo. There are no kids yet but it's not for lack of trying. Dawn definitely wants to experience the joys of motherhood.

As a parting shot, Terra Daffon, ABC-5's senior vice president for corporate affairs, had this to say during the press con: "And so, *korek kayo d'yan*, game *na kami*, many want to be millionaires but few have made it. In the battle of the gameshows, eventually we will find out which is the weakest link and who will say goodbye!"

ZULUETA. Host of "The Price is Right."

ABC-5's competition offers prizes as high as P1 million (P2 million in the case of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire) but the network is hoping that viewers will be attracted by the interesting formats of its game shows. Besides, most of the time, they do not go head to head with the other channels. The big question is, will the audience not tire of watching *seven* game shows a week?

Globe celebration on 23

Globe Handyphone and Studio 23 present the second episode of its five-part special "Celeb8" A Globe Get Together" on Nov. 22 at 9 p.m. over Studio 23. Thursday's episode is called "Celebr8: Style Icons" and features the cutting edge designs of RajoLaurel, Milkwear and Young Designer's Guld and the music of Eraserheads, Pinikpikan, Rage Band, Retrospect and Rachel Alejandro.

Viewers with Globe Handyphones can join the polling game and get the chance to win trips to Davao, Boracay, Cebu and Palawan. For its grand draw, the major prizes are a Ford Explorer and a trip for four to Australia.

We were at Republic of Malate last Tuesday for the taping of the third show "Acoustic Nights" which will be aired on Nov. 29.The long lineup of guests included Richard Merk, Calvin Millado, Lyn Sherman, Bituin Escalante, Barbie's Cradle, Rica Arambulo and VJs Amanda Griffin and Tricia Chiongbian.

Forthcoming episodes are "Silver Screen" airing on Dec. 6 and "Cellphone Christmas airing on Dec. 13.

'Startalk' celebrates sixth year

"Startalk" hosted by Rosanna Roces, Butch Francisco and Lolit Solis, will celebrates its sixth anniversary today at 2:30 p.m. on GMA-7.

ALEJANDRO. Featured on Globe show tonight.

The show will feature glimpses of stories, scandals and exposes thatmade "Startalk" the talk of the town for the past six years. Robin Padilla and Sharon Cuneta topbill the rosters of guests.

Questions for "Band of Brothers," Episode 6

1. Who is the medic featured in this episode?

2. The medic has difficulty looking for which item to help him in his work?
a. bandage b. scissors c. syringe

3. What did the nurse give the medic?
a. bar of chocolate b. a pair of scissors c. a cup of coffee

Send all entries to "Switching Channels-Band of Brothers Contest," P.O. Box 512 Greenhills Post Office, San Juan, Metro Manila

Entries must be postmarked on or before Nov. 24, 2001. Winners will be announced on Dec. 1.

The following are the answers and winners for Episodes 1, 2 and 3:

Answers

Episode 1: 1. B. Easy Company 2. B. David Schwimmer c. 3. A. "From the Earth to the Moon

Episode 2: 1.C. David Schwimmer 2. A. Winters 3. A. WWII veterans

Episode 3: 1. A. Leg 2 B. 65 3. D. Blind

Winners

Episode 1:Remelo V. Magdayao, Reynalo Agregado, Georgina M. Bernardo, Renee V. Balmes, Katherine J. Franco, Carlito Peñaranda, Minda A. Manalo.

Episode 2: Roslyn V. Magdayao, Flor B. Lee, Georgina M. Bernardo, Paul Ryan Sales, Roberto C. Go, Edwin Chiang, Kevin R. Otero.

Episode 3: Andre Nielo Mangubat, Salvador T. Cortez, Maria Karmela J. Franco, Dina P. Aseron, Ricardo L. Montano Jr., Josephine L. Chiang, Hernando Coronel.

All winners have been notified and will receive "Band of Brothers" dog tags and caps.

Promising movies on TV this week

BY NOELANI TORRE

ON the HBO channel:

"One True Thing"

Saturday, Nov. 17, 6 a.m. This film adaptation of Anna Quindlen's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel stars Renee Zellweger, Meryl Streep, and William Hurt. The poignant story of one family coming to terms with each other's imperfections is both funny and tear-jerking. Academy Award-winners Streep and Hurt give strong performances, as does relative newcomer Zellweger.

"Band of Brothers 06: Bastogne"

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 10 p.m. The sixth episode of the 10-part miniseries, this chronicles the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge. The men of Easy Company struggle to hold the Allied line while fending off frostbite and hunger. They spend a miserable Christmas in the bitterly cold trenches.

"Bowfinger"

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 8:15 a.m. Steve Martin plays the lead role in this hilarious comedy, that of second rate film director Bobby Bowfinger who stops at nothing in order to make his ultra low budget sci-fi movie. Eddie Murphy is the hapless action star who doesn't know that he's actually "starring" in the movie. Martin and Murphy deliver a load of laughs.

"Tequila Sunrise"

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Oscar-winning director Robert Towne directs Mel Gibson, Michelle Pfeiffer, and Kurt Russell in this sizzling noirish action thriller. Two old friends, a retired drug dealer (Gibson) and a fast-rising L.A. cop (Russell) clash with each other in their jobs and personal lives. Pfeiffer is the restaurant owner who comes between them and Raul Julia plays the drug lord who adds to the conflict.

"Any Given Sunday"

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 12:50 a.m. Oliver Stone dons football jerseys this time in this film about a once powerful football team now gone to seed. Al Pacino plays the aging coach and Dennis Quaid is the star-quarterback, now past his prime. Cameron Diaz serves to intensify the pressure on the team.

On the Cinemax channel:

"Joe Versus the Volcano"

Saturday, Nov. 17, 5:30 p.m. In this romantic romp, Tom Hanks is a stressed-out nerd who accepts the bizarre offer of an eccentric businessman—that he live a king's lifestyle for six weeks—provided that he jumps into a Pacific island volcano after his "vacation!" Meg Ryan is fun to watch as she plays the triple role of Hanks' co-worker, a California girl, and the captain of the yacht that takes him to his destiny.

MURPHY. Stars in "Bowfinger," Nov. 21, 8:15 a.m., HBO.

"Election"

Saturday, Nov. 17, 7:15 p.m. A satire on the election process, this film chronicles the clash between an extremely nice and diabolical girl (Reese Witherspoon) and the teacher (Matthew Broderick) who thwarts her plan of being a shoo-in as student body president by generating some competition against her. Funny, shrewd and smart, this is a must-see.

"Notting Hill"

Saturday, Nov. 17, 9 p.m. This romantic comedy was a box-office hit not so long ago, with Julia Roberts playing a beautiful and wildly famous actress and Hugh Grant playing the attractive but unassuming British bloke who falls in love with her, and vice-versa. The script was written by Richard Curtis, who also wrote "Four Weddings and a Funeral," another Grant starrer.

"The End of the Affair"

Sunday, Nov. 18, 9 p.m. Directed by Oscar-winner Neil Jordan and based on Graham Greene's classic 1951 novel, this powerful drama tells the tale of a tumultuous love affair during World War II. Ralph Fiennes and Julianne Moore star as the ill-fated couple and Stephen Rea plays the latter's worthy but dull husband.

"American History X"

Sunday, Nov. 18, 10:45 p.m. This film got a lot of attention before and after its release, not because of content but because of the lawsuits that folks behind the movie filed against each other.

The film itself is a gripping drama about racism, with powerful performances by Edward Norton, Edward Furlong, Fairuza Balk, Beverly D'Angelo, Avery Brooks and Elliot Gould. British director Tony Kaye played around with colors and angles in this film, so expect something different.

FIENNES. Lead star in "The End of the Affair."

"A Countess from Hong Kong"

Monday, Nov. 19, 6 a.m. The directorial swan song of comedy master Charlie Chaplin, this is an old-fashioned romantic tale about a Russian countess who stows away in an oceanliner from Hong Kong. Oscar-winner Sophia Loren plays the countess and Oscar-winner Marlon Brando is the American diplomat on board who soon finds himself falling in love with her. Chaplin himself appears in the movie in a humorous cameo role.

"What Planet Are You From?"

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 8:15 a.m. Gary Shandling plays Harold, an alien who has to impregnate an earthling, in this Mike Nichols-directed comedy. Annette Bening plays the woman who might be the solution to his problem—only, she wants to get married first! Hilarious and offbeat, this movie also stars Greg Kinnear.

"For Whom the Bell Tolls"

Thursday, Nov. 22, 9:45 a.m. Nominated for nine Oscars in 1943, this film adaptation of Ernest Hemingway's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic is a true cinematic gem. Starring Ingrid Bergman and Gary Cooper, the film tells the tale of an American mercenary who fights for Spain with a motley crew of peasants, including a lovely loyalist guerilla. Tense action, brilliant cinematography, and a great Victor Young score make for a deeply enjoyable watch.

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Ayen Munji-Laurel guests in husband's concert

By Edmund L. Sicam

AYEN. Resuming her singing career.

WE first met Ayen Munji-Laurel when she was not yet a princess. This was in 1992 when she came out in a musical depicting the life of Senator Nene Pimentel. Later, she came out as a village lass in a TV pilot we were involved in. She showed a lot of promise then as a singer but her star never really shone in the world of show business.

Fate had other plans for her because, after Ayen performed with Lourna Pal and Miriam Pantig in Brunei more than six years ago, Prince Jeffrey was smitten by her beauty and proposed to her soon after.

Limelight

The aspiring Filipina singer was suddenly thrust into the limelight when she married the prince and became an honest-to-goodness princess. Several years ago, SK Productions announced that it was mounting a big-budgeted musical "Rama at Sita" in Manila but would not identify the people behind the company. Everyone in the theater business knew, however, that it was Ayen who was behind the company and she could not come out in the open because she was married to the prince.

After her divorce, she became more accessible to the press and was the subject of many newspaper and magazine articles. Just last Sunday, she was one of 11 celebrities featured on Boy Abunda's "Most Interesting Personalties for 2001"

Recently, we had a chance to interview her during a press conference for the concert of her husband, Franco Laurel, who will be performing at the Music Museum on Nov. 23 and 24. Ayen had really changed from her days as a struggling singer. She looked quite regal and yes, she definitely is a princess even if she is no longer married to the prince. Does a princess lose her title when she gets divorced? No matter, to her fans, she will always be a princess.

Franco's concert

When we heard about Franco's concert, many assumed Ayen was the producer behind it. She disabused our minds right away saying she was only a guest on the show. It was actually Franco's mom who was mounting the performance. Aside from her solos, Ayen will do a duet with Franco, "With You."

The princess is intent on resuming her musical and acting career. Tomorrow, she will launch her Christmas CD single, "Ayen: Miss Kita Kung Christmas" on "ASAP." The other song in the CD is "Laging Mayroong Bukas."

She will join Ariel Rivera, Pops Fernandez, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Franco in a production number. February next year, she will release a full-length album under Viva Records but produced by SK Productions.

Ayen herself feels that time is not on her side. During the six years she was married to the prince, she set aside her musical career and devoted her time to being a wife and mother.

Musical family

Now 29, she wants to regain the momentum that she lost by doing concerts and albums.

Belonging to a musical family (Emy Munji is her dad), it was not surprising that at 16 she was already doing commercial jingles. At the same time, she took up theater arts in UP and music at UST. After the Pimentel musical, she came out as Flerida in the 1993 musical "Florante at Laura" and did lounge acts.

Her marriage to the prince changed all that. So why did the fairytale romance end? Like most marriages, it was because of another woman. He fell in love with a girl who was working in his office. She found out about it when she was doing "Rama at Sita" in Manila through a magazine article. Like most affairs, the wife is always the last to know.

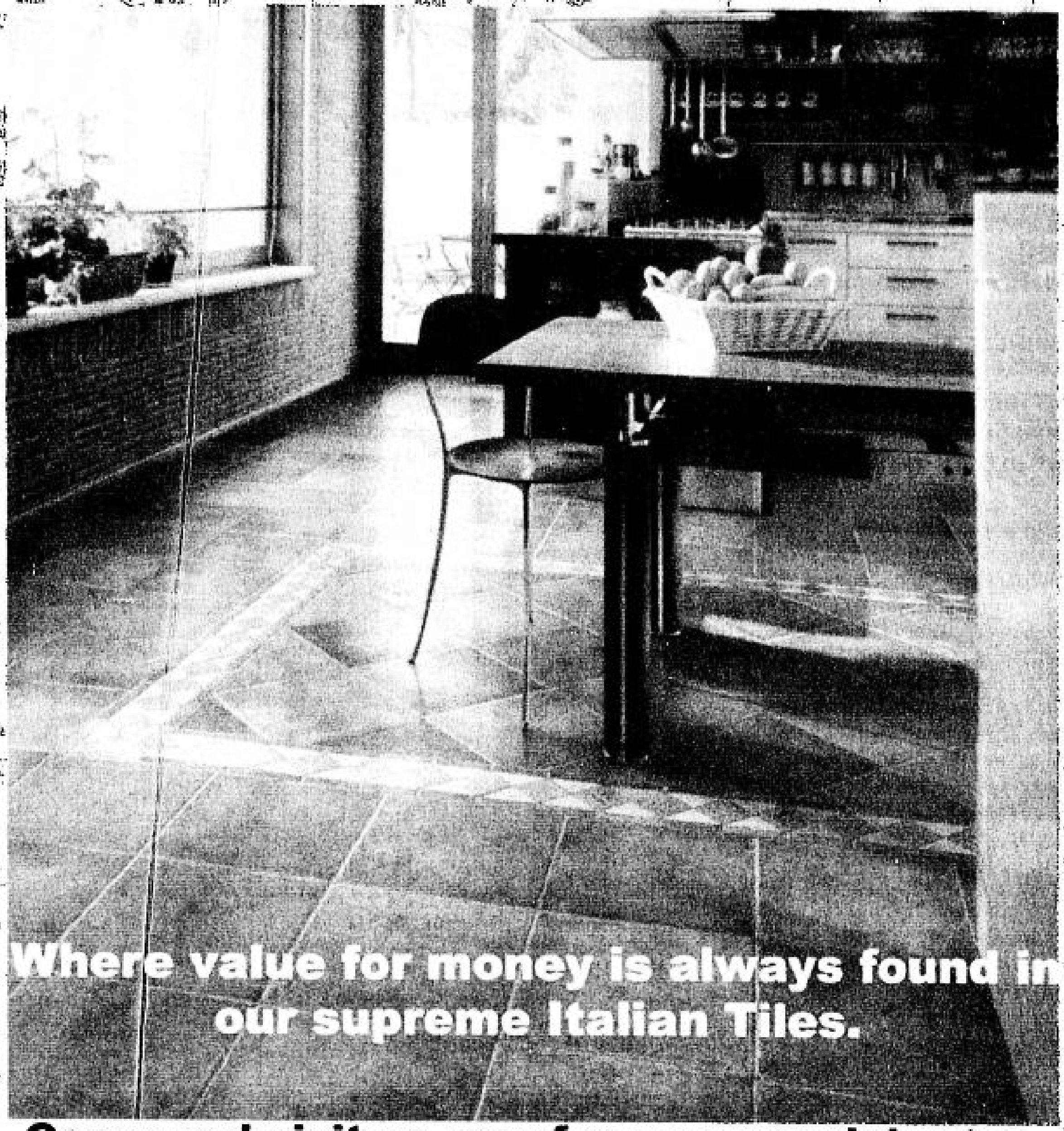
When Ayen confronted her husband about the infidelity, he made no attempt to deny it. He agreed to the divorce and the two are still friends. He provided her with a tidy settlement that would allow her to live very comfortably. He made no attempt to obtain child custody because, according to Ayen, he knew that she was a good mother.

Fifth woman

We wondered why she was upset by a fifth woman in their relationship when she shared him with three other wives. Ayen said he had promised her that she would be the last woman in his life. When he broke that promise, she felt betrayed and decided splitting up would be the best course of action. It was a brave act because no one had ever divorced a prince in Brunei before.

Does she miss Brunei? Definitely not, she said. She's glad she was able to travel to many places and experience many things not ordinarily available to the average person. But at the end of the day, she says what makes her happy is permanence and that includes a supportive husband.

She has found that in her new husband, whom she met during the staging of "Rama at Sita" where Franco played a major role. So far, she says their honeymoon hasn't ended and she's quite happy with both her love life and the resumption of her musical career.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Marilou Diaz-Abaya receives Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in impressive rites

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

FILIPINO filmmakers have had their share of acclaim and recognition abroad. As early as the 1950s, Manuel Conde's "Genghis Khan" won plaudits at the Venice International Film Festival, presaging other honors in the decades ahead.

Retrospective

Gerry de Leon was given a retrospective in another international filmfest, and Lino Brocka and Mike de Leon "conquered" the Cannes festival. Other Filipino filmmakers who've had their movies showcased abroad include Eddie Romero, Ishmael Bernal, Gregorio Fernandez, Ramon Estella, Chito Roño, Joel Lamangan, Carlitos Siguion-Reyna, and Mel Chionglo.

This year, the biggest plum won by a Filipino filmmaker was the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize awarded in impressive rites last September by the City of Fukuoka in Japan to Marilou Diaz-Abaya for her entire body of work for the past 20 years.

The Fukuoka award is a highly prized honor awarded to Asians who have distinguished themselves in the field of culture. Hundreds of top cultural leaders and workers in the region vie for the award each year, but only four are chosen after a rigorous screening process.

Other awardees

Only one other Filipino, Leandro V. Locsin, has won this honor in the award's long history. Diaz-Abaya's fellow awardees this year are Muhammad Yunus from Bangladesh for Poverty Eradication, Yujiro Hayami of Japan for Development Economics, and painter Thawan Duchanee of Thailand for Arts and Culture.

Typically, artists and cultural workers are given the prize when they've already in their 60s, but Diaz-Abaya has already won the honor while still in her 40s. What has made her such a "precocious" winner of the lifetime achievement prize, when she clearly has many more decades of productive filmmaking ahead of her?

Courage and humanity

The people behind the award explain that they were very impressed with the courage and humanity vibrantly evident in her movies, which have inspired film lovers not just in the Philippines but also in other countries.

Japanese moviegoers are particularly fond of Diaz-Abaya and her movies. For many years now, she has been singled out by leading Japanese critic and film school head Tadao Sato. He has invited her and her movies to the annual Fukuoka Focus on Asia filmfest, where she's developed a strong following.

Thus, when Diaz-Abaya was nominated for the Asian Culture Prize, her achievements were already well-known to the judges, and their decision in her favor was unanimous!

Top officials

Last Sept. 11, Diaz-Abaya flew to Fukuoka to accept the prized award a few days later at elegant ceremonies attended by Fukuoka City's top officials, as well as important personages from other parts of Japan and other countries.

Filipinos in Fukuoka were also in rapt and proud attendance, thrilled that a *kababayan* was being honored in such a special way. They also went out of their way to attend the retrospective of eight of Diaz-Abaya's films that was mounted by the Fukuoka filmfest to honor its beloved "daughter," as well as the public fora that were held to give the media and the public an opportunity to interact with the Asian Culture Prize laureate from the Philippines. It was a proud moment for the country on the international and regional stage, indeed!

DIAZ-ABAYA accepts her award as fellow-laureate Thawan Duchanee looks on.

2001年（第12回）
福岡アジア文化賞
The 12th Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes 2001

THE FUKUOKA Asian Culture Prize laureates acknowledge the audience's ovation.

001年(第12回)福岡アジア文化賞
THE 12th FUKUOKA ASIAN CULTURE PRIZES 2001 BANQUET

DIAZ-ABAYA with co-laureates (from left) Yunus, Hayami and Duchanee at a banquet reception after the awarding ceremonies.

FILIPINOS in Fukuoka City fete Diaz-Abaya (center).

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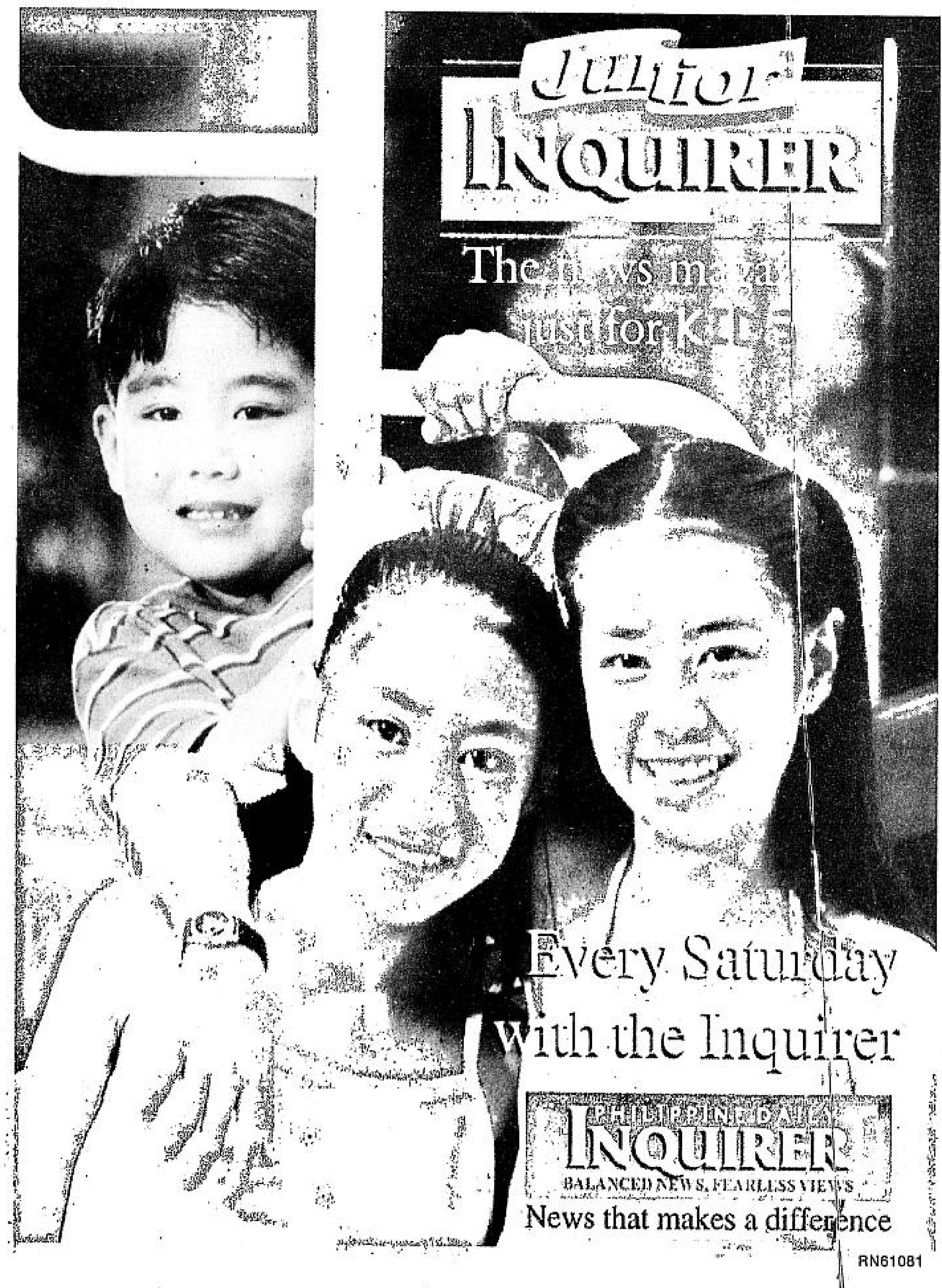
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Steve Martini's 'The Judge' on the Hallmark Channel

AFTER the successful reworking of best-selling author Steve Martini's "Undue Influence" into a four-hour mini-series, comes another riveting legal suspense drama from the same author, "The Judge," as Hallmark Channel presents it mini-series adaptation on Nov. 18 and 19 at 9 p.m.

Ensemble

Featured in the two-installment series is an ensemble of acclaimed actors: Emmy award winner and Oscar nominee Edward James Olmos, Golden Globe nominee Chris Noth and acclaimed actress Lolita Davidovich, Tony Award winner Charles Durning ("Cat on A Hot Tin Roof"), Emmy nominee Sonia Braga ("Angel Eyes"), John Terrey, Mark Blum, and Heidi Mark ("Rock Star").

Director David Cronenberg ("Dear Ringers," "Eraserhead") also makes a cameo appearance as John Stobel, a police detective who testifies during the judge's trial.

"The Judge" follows Steve Martini's previous Paul Madriani legal-thriller "Undue Influence," which was also made into a mini-series. Here, defense attorney Paul Madriani (Noth) faces a steep challenge when he is asked to defend his longtime adversary, the notorious but brilliant Judge Armando Acosta (Olmos) who is charged with the murder of Brittany Hill (Mark), the vice-cop who went undercover as the prostitute the judge had solicited.

TONY Award-winner Charles Durning.

LOLITA Davidovich, Chris Noth and Edward James Olmos.

Defense team

At the onset of the case, the judge hires top county prosecutor Catherine Rosetti (Davidovich) to defend him, but insists Madriani that join the defense team. The plot takes a complicated turn when it is revealed that Rosetti's possible connection to the case, a highly ambitious prosecutor (Terry), successfully convinces the presiding judge to dismiss Rosetti as legal counsel of Acosta, paving the way for Madriani to become lead attorney.

As the legal battle surges on, Madriani finds himself beleaguered as he faces widespread police corruption, uncooperative witnesses and a ruthless prosecutor. Soon, Madriani is mired by the mounting evidence stacked against his client and is left in a quandary regarding his client's innocence. The drama then takes on more surprising twists and turns as Madriani tries to desperately seek more evidence to set his client free.

The character of Paul Madriani has been featured in five best-selling novels by author Steve Martini: "Compelling Evidence," "Prime Witness," "Undue Influence," "The Judge" and "The Attorney." Martini is also the author of two New York Times bestsellers, "The List," and "Critical Mass."

The Hallmark Channel is seen on Home Cable Channel 25, Sky Cable Channel 38, Destiny Cable Channel 25 and local Cable Boss affiliates throughout the Philippines.

Keys leads American Music Awards nominations

By Anthony Breznican

BEVERLY HILLS—Rhythm and blues newcomer Alicia Keys, who won commercial and critical acclaim with the album "Songs in A Minor," received a leading five American Music Awards nominations Tuesday.

Keys' debut disc has been among the year's top sellers, fueled by the success of her No. 1 song "Fallin'." She received nominations in both the pop and R&B categories for favorite female artist and favorite new artist.

Self-titled album

"Songs in A Minor" was nominated in the R&B album category alongside Janet Jackson's "All for You" and Aaliyah's self-titled album.

Aaliyah, who died in an Aug. 25 plane crash, also was nominated for favorite female R&B artist. Mary J. Blige received the third bid in the category.

Keys faces Jackson and Jennifer Lopez for the top pop female artist award.

Other multiple nominees included Brooks & Dunn, Destiny's Child, Dave Matthews Band, Lonestar, R. Kelly, Tim McGraw, 'N Sync and Shaggy.

Three-hour ceremony

The nominees for the 29th annual awards were announced by Jewel and Sean "P. Diddy" Combs. The three-hour ceremony will be broadcast in the United States on Jan. 9 from Los Angeles.

Gospel and contemporary Christian music got their own category this year with Yolanda Adams, Steven Curtis Chapman and Donnie McClurkin getting the first nominations for contemporary inspirational artist.

Nominees are compiled from music industry publications and the results are revealed at the ceremony. Winners are selected by a national sampling of about 20,000 listeners. *AP*

JENNIFER LOPEZ. Nominated in the top pop female artist category.

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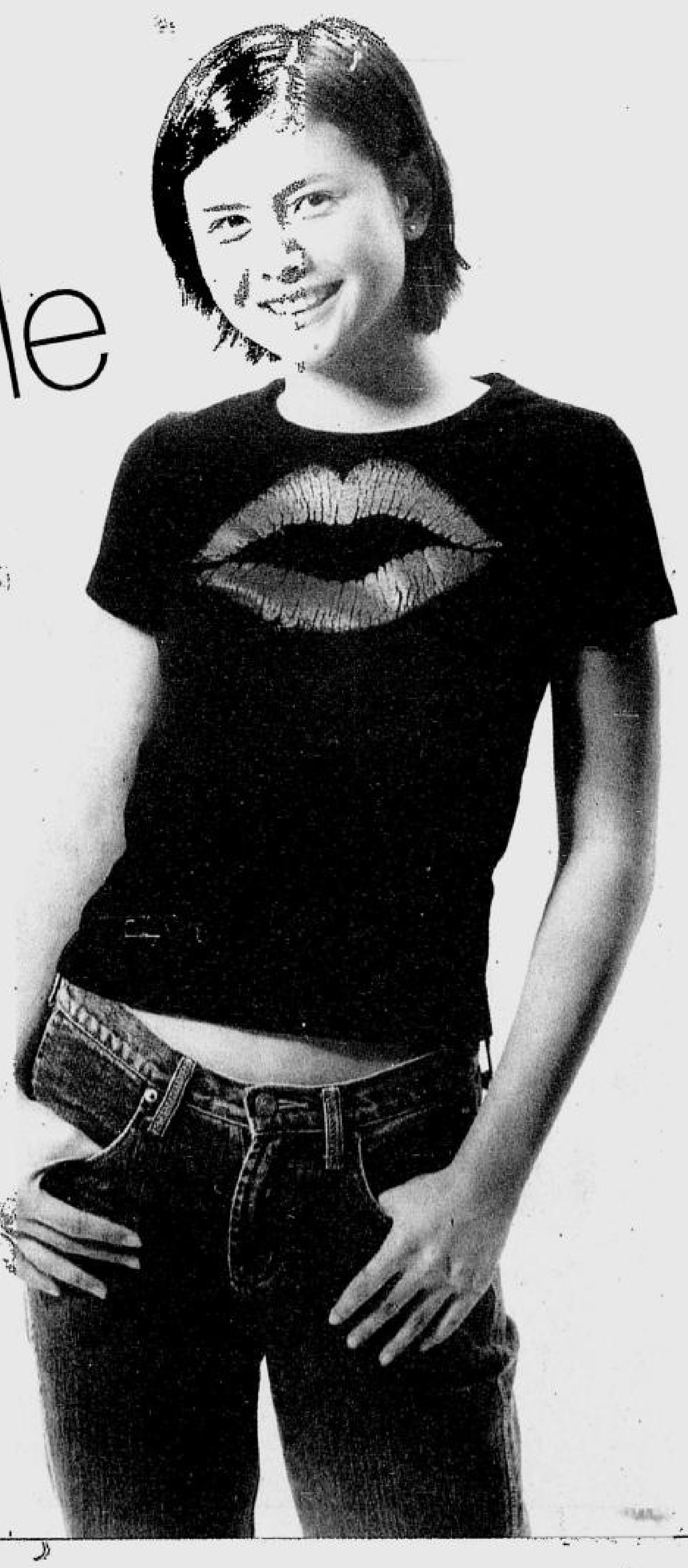

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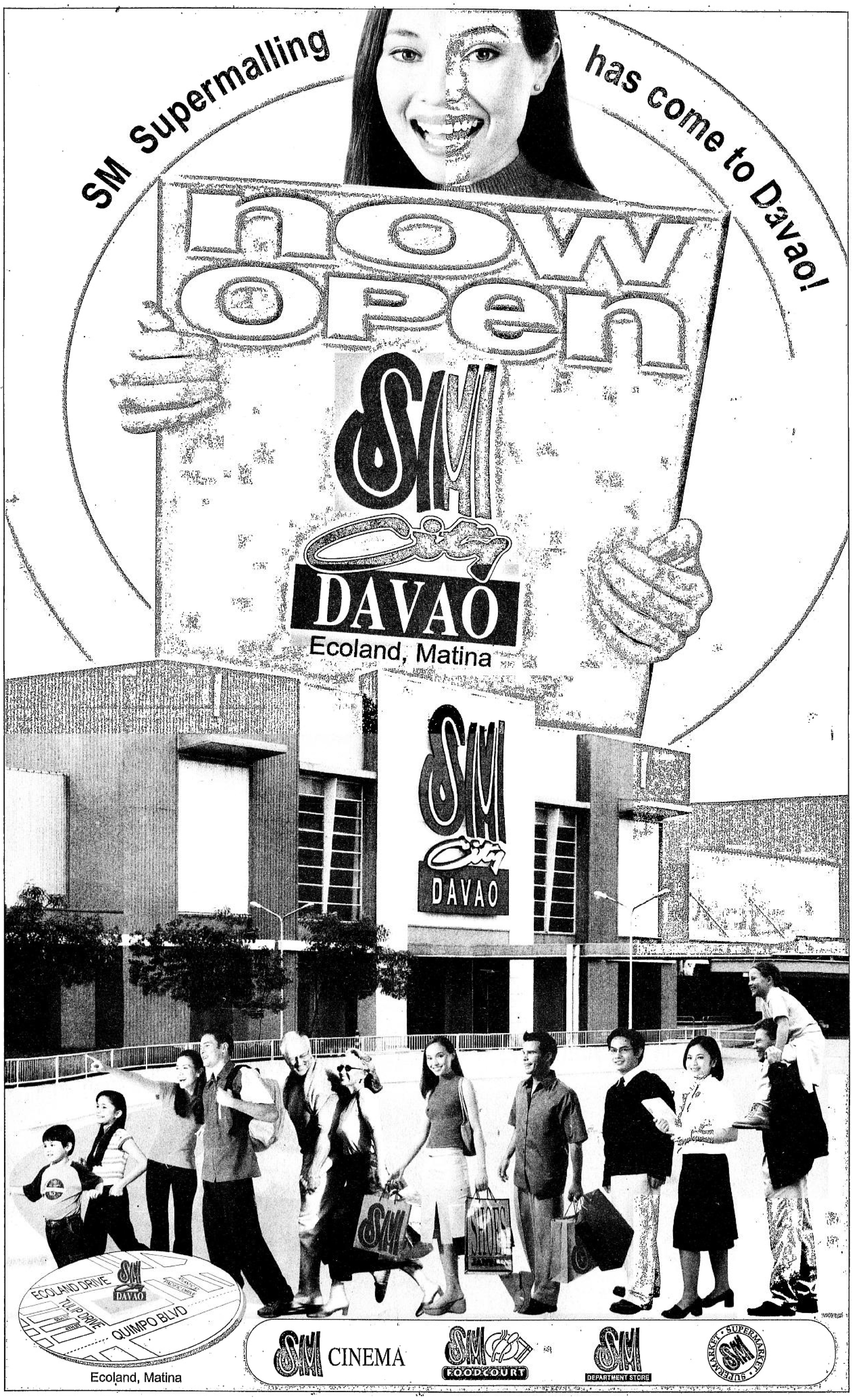
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Saturday SPECIAL

Director of hit animated film in Japan has scant US hopes

BY KAZUNORI TAKADA

TOKYO—Domestic success for his latest box office hit, the animated movie "Spirited Away," probably won't be duplicated in America, Japan's Hayao Miyazaki said on Tuesday.

New Japanese record

The popular director's "Sen to Chihiro no Kamikakushi"—whose English title is "Spirited Away"—marked a new Japanese record of 26.1 billion yen ($216.7 million) in total ticket sales on the weekend, outstripping Hollywood's "Titanic" after a mere three months.

The movie, the story of a little girl named Chihiro who gets trapped in a fantasy world and struggles to find her way back to her parents, surpassed "Titanic's" Japanese record audience of 16.8 million viewers in late September.

Miyazaki's latest film is due to make its overseas debut in theaters in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan next month and is expected to be shown in France in January.

But the 50-year-old director said no schedule had yet been set for a debut in the United States, a market in which he had only modest hopes for success.

"I think a small number of the people will understand the film and that is more than enough," he said. "Some think being popular in the United States is the best thing, but I think it is wrong to think that way.

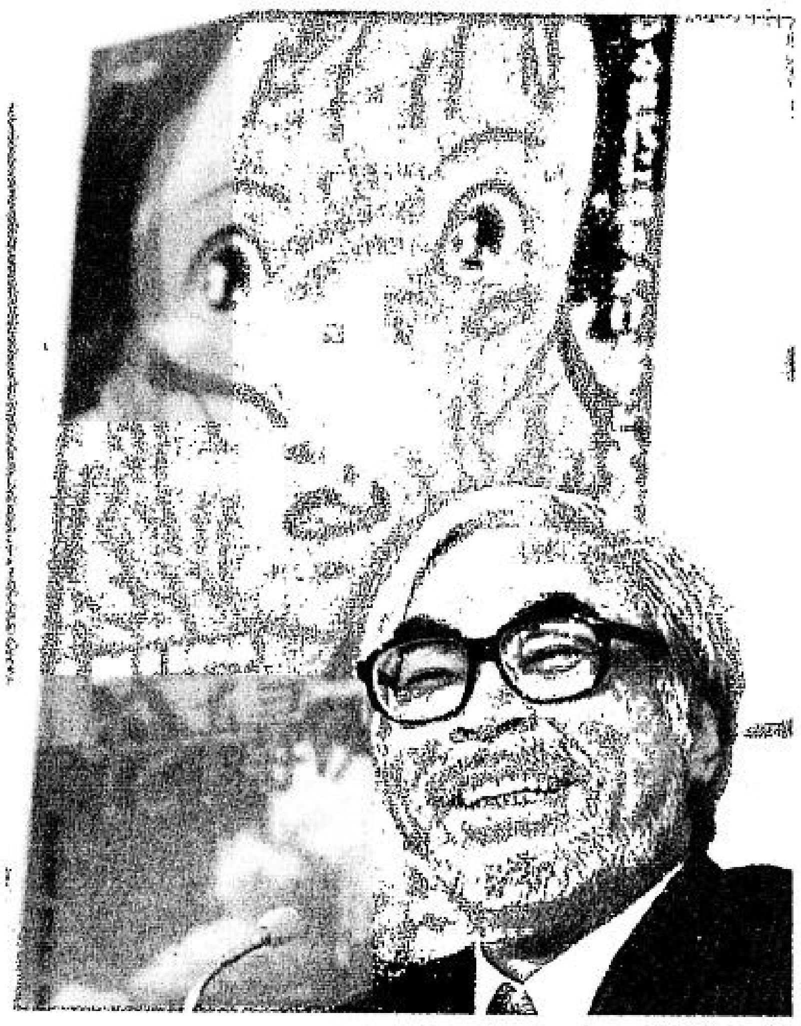
Wildly popular

"Movies are said to be international, but I don't think so."

Miyazaki's last movie, "Princess Mononoke" in 1997 was wildly popular in Japan but did not fare well in the United States.

"Princess Mononoke" is a complex tale set in ancient Japan and was seen as an allegory for man's destruction of his environment.

"It was awful," Miyazaki said of the movie's reception in America. "Though some US newspapers said the reason for its failure was its brutality, people in the US cinema industry understood that there was a reason behind the violent scenes."



MIYAZAKI. His latest movie has set a new Japanese record of 26.1 billion yen ($216.7M) in total ticket sales.

"Spirited Away" was initially aimed at children but has become popular among all age groups in Japan after opening in theaters on July 20.

Miyazaki said he wanted to explain the meaning of life through the adventures of Chihiro, who encounters a slew of weird characters—such as an old man with six arms—on her trip from the world of fantasy back to reality.

Metaphor

Another character, a "faceless" phantom, was intended as metaphor for modern Japan's search for identity and angst.

Miyazaki said he didn't really know why the movie became such a huge hit, but hoped that it would have staying power.

"I wanted a make a movie which the children who watch it will want to show to their children when they grow up." *Reuters*

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How do you slay vampires without a stake?

Top fashion models and Hollywood

By Behn Cervantes

THE TRANSITION from the fashion ramp to the Hollywood Scene has been constant for many generations now. The "piracy" goes back to silent film days and to the golden age of Hollywood when the film capital contracted a harem of nubile beauties to dress up their exotic sets. The movie capital always lured beautiful women, including the glamorous models of the fashion world.

On the other hand, many aspiring actresses exploit the exposure modeling affords them before the right Hollywood break comes along. When it comes, they fly to Los Angeles to try their luck in a glamorous arena where beauty, poise and personality are sure pluses.

Challenges

If they have withstood the rigors and demanding challenges of the competitive fashion world, they very well could cope with Hollywood, right? Not always, it seems.

Lauren Bacall, Julia Roberts, Cybill Shepperd, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Elizabeth Hurley are prominent successes who bided their time in modeling until the appropriate Hollywood offer was made. By then, they could make demands advantageous to their flourishing careers.

La Grace Kelly metamorphosed from fashion royalty to become a Hollywood queen. After great success in the film capital and an Academy award for her performance in Clifford Odets' "Country Girl," Grace the Philadelphia heiress, relinquished reel royalty to become the Princess of Monaco in real life.

Her life there is worthy of a film starring someone as beautiful as she was in her Hitchcock days. Can someone from the fashion world be found?

Certainly, the Cheryl Ladd version was terrible. Ladd may be one of Charlie's Angels but she is petite while Grace was willowy. Cheryl is transparent and rather plebeian while Grace was always enigmatic and interesting due to her regality.

Even the incomparable Dutch-born Audrey Hepburn had modeling experience in London before Colette, the French playwright of "Gigi," handpicked her for the role of the would-be courtesan. Her ballet training in London gave her added grace and a distinct advantage over mere beauties.

Recognizable faces

Models enter the world of cinema with already recognizable faces. That is their distinct advantage. However, it can work against them if they do not live up to the public's expectations.

The reputation they make or break depending on the quality of the films they act in, the publicity they earn in the process, and, finally the acting talent or crowd appeal they have. Some make it. Others don't.

Where is Verushka? Jean Shrimpton is running a small inn in a little-known resort town in England. They appeared in a film or two, but didn't achieve success.

However, there are Hollywood successes like Lauren Bacall, Lauren Hutton and Cybill Sheppard. But, all three were already preparing for the acting world even while they were achieving success in the sister world of high fashion. They exploited their acting training to project the look that gained them fashion's admiration and the Hollywood invite.

Deep voice

In fact, the then teen-aged Lauren Bacall was called The Look. Her straight hair *ala* Veronica Lake, strange Garboesque features and deep voice were crowd-pleasers. She was so sultry and tempting that Betty (as friends called her) melted the stolid heart of Hollywood icon Humphrey Bogart. He married Bacall after starring with her in Hemingway's "To Have and Have Not."

The young model from Brooklyn won the heart of middle-aged Bogart and co-reigned with him as the Hollywood royalty of the early '50s. Loyal subjects included singing idol Frank Sinatra, who took over the leadership of the Rat Pack after Bogart's demise.

When Bacall was widowed he consoled and wooed her. She didn't marry him, though. Instead, Lauren wed Broadway's premiere actor Jason Robards Jr., known for his portrayals of tragic O'Neil heroes.

On the Great White Way, Bacall appeared in successful Broadway musicals like "Woman of the Year" and the comedy "Cactus Flower," winning the Tony and other acting awards along the way. She is fashion's greatest success story in Hollywood.

What went wrong with the careers of the other erstwhile models? Certainly, Suzy Parker is by far a greater beauty than Julia Roberts. She had followed her sister's footsteps in the world of high fashion. Dorien Leigh was an international success as a model when Suzy was a mere teenager. However, Suzy became top fashion photographer Richard Avedon's favorite subject. Dorien appeared in European films with little success. Suzy was given the big build-up treatment but didn't fare too well, either.

Photo montage

What went wrong then? Didn't those Red Hot Revlon photos sell zillions of lipstick tubes and nail polish for the cosmetic giant? Didn't her glamorous photo montage in the film credits of Stanley Donen's "Funny Face" almost steal the movie away from its established stars, Fred Astaire and Audrey Hepburn? Parker, a 5'9" red-haired beauty, was better seen than heard.

In fact, it is reported that two-time Academy Award winner Spencer Tracy the original star of "10 North Frederic," refused to appear with her after viewing her wooden performance in her debit film, "Kiss Them For Me." Tracy's long-time paramour as well as career adviser Katharine Hepburn seconded the firm decision.

Gary Cooper, Tracy's replacement merely advised Suzy to watch her first film and learn from it. He is supposed to have given her great support in their film. For this reason, there was great improvement in her acting in that John O'Hara tale of suburban marital challenges.

Despite her limitations, Suzy was beautiful enough to be considered as Elizabeth Taylor's substitute for "Cleopatra," when the Burton-Taylor scandal caused delays in the most expensive film ever made at the time. *(To be concluded.)*

KELLY. Oscar winner.

HEPBURN. Ballet training.

BACALL. The Look.

Which beauty will become a millionaire on Nov. 19?

By Edmund L. Sicam

PEOPLE who want to be instant millionaires join game shows like "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," "The Weakest Link" or "Game Ka Na Ba." Several shapely lasses are trying another route, joining the Miss Global Queen Philippines 2001 contest sponsored by the Wellcom Telecommunications Supermarket. The winner, who will be chosen from the 20 finalists, will receive P1 million and beauty contestants don't even have to endure the nasty remarks of Edu Manzano or answer Christopher de Leon's difficult questions. Judgment day is Nov. 19 at Onstage Greenbelt Makati. The winner will represent the country in the Global Queen competition in Quebec, Canada.

Finalists

The millionairess will come from the following: Carmen Christina P.Hidalgo, Rochelle Estrella (Cebu winner), Krista C. Lucero, Anna Vanessa C. Carvajal, Anona G. Solas (Davao winner), Arlene Joy A. Paredes, Jhoanna Mundy R. De Jesus, Bevinder A. Singh, Sheelah R. Chua, Angelica S. Sandel, Lia Andrea A. Ramos, Joanne Paula Abinuman, Riva M. Parkinson, Toni Rose G. Veloso, Aubrey Sandejas, Karen Loren M. Agustin, Stephanie Florence V. Magali, Krizelda Ivy Millora, Angel Grace A. Ramos and Justine V. Gabionza.

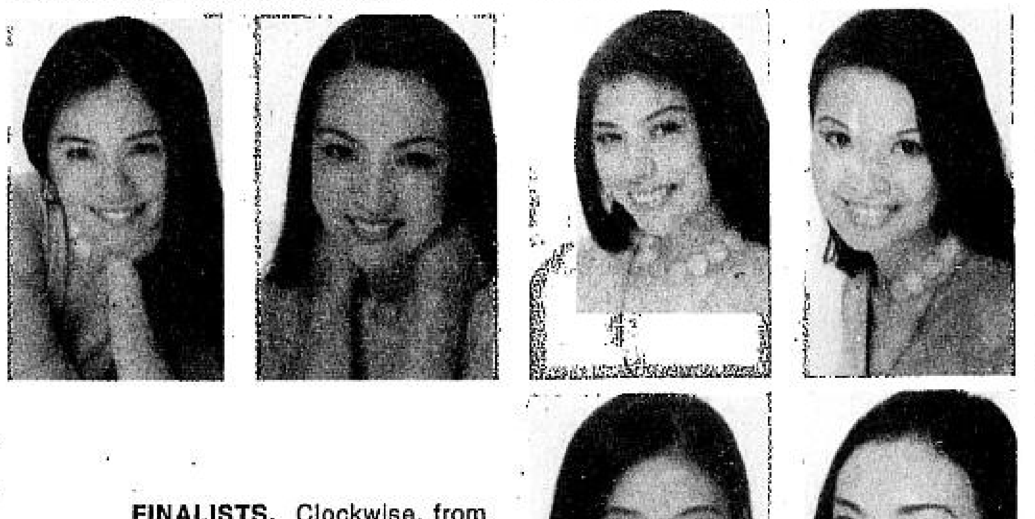
Fashion director Robby Carmona, who conceptualized the contest along with Wellcom, also supervised the training program that each finalist underwent. The girls received seminars and workshops on fashion and make-up styling, print and broadcast modeling, as well as public speaking and stage projection.

Fashion shows

Carmona's Saga Events+Models has produced more than a 100 events ranging from fashion shows to national conventions, among them Bodyshots 1999, 1999 Smirnoff Mule Fashion Awards, L'Oreal Color Trophy 1999 and 2000.

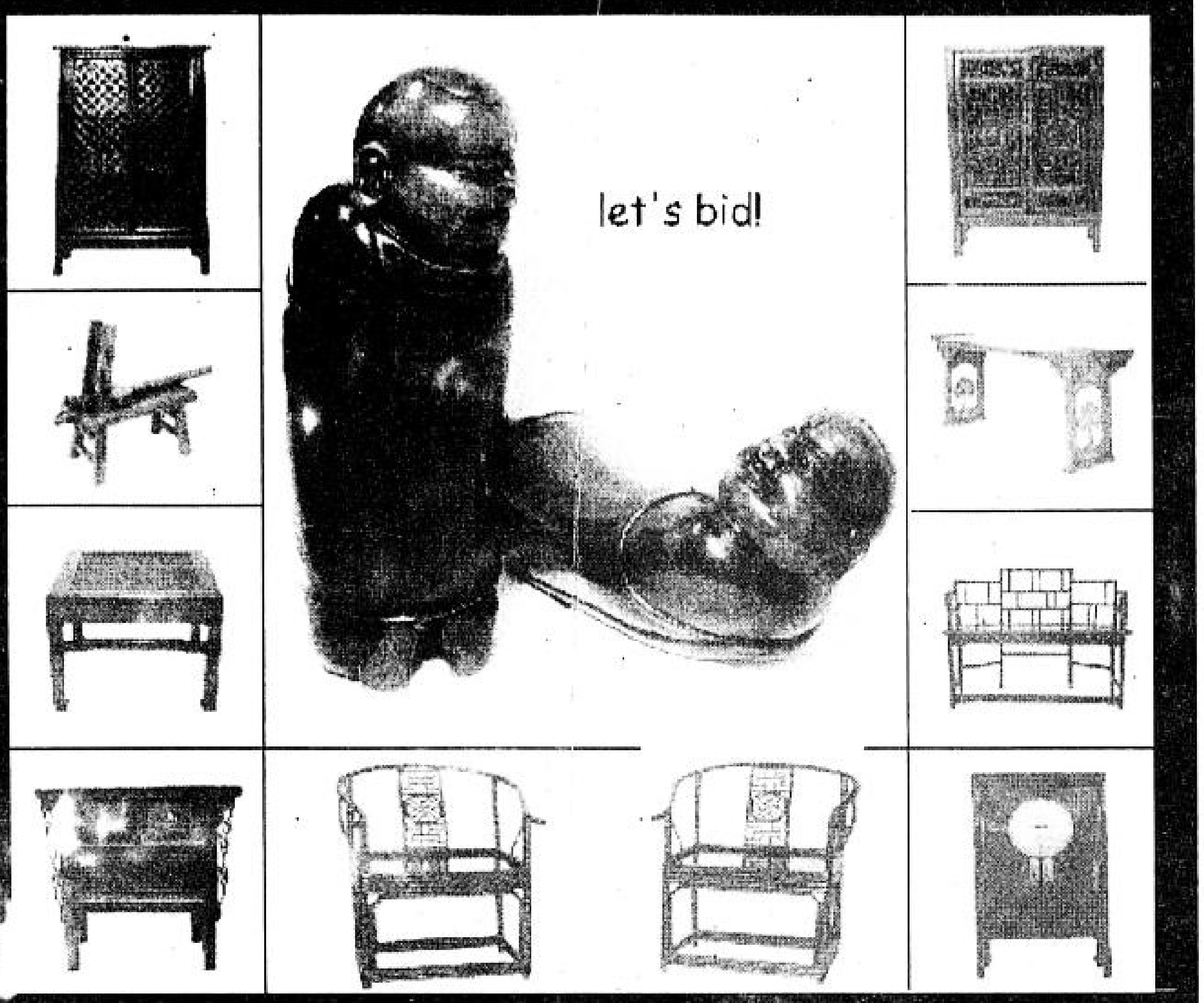
The finalists were presented to the press recently at the Nissan showroom in Pasig City. We think the following stand a good chance of winning the title: Carmen Christina Hidalgo, UP Diliman, 21; Rochelle Estrella, Cebu Normal University, 19; Angelica S. Sandel, Systems Technological Institute, 19; Aubrey Sandejas, Systems Technological Institute, 21; Toni Rose Veloso, UP Diliman, 19 and Anna Vanessa C. Carvajal, UP Diliman, 19.

Whoever wins, the biggest winner will be Wellcom, which has found a user-friendly way to sell its products to prospective customers.

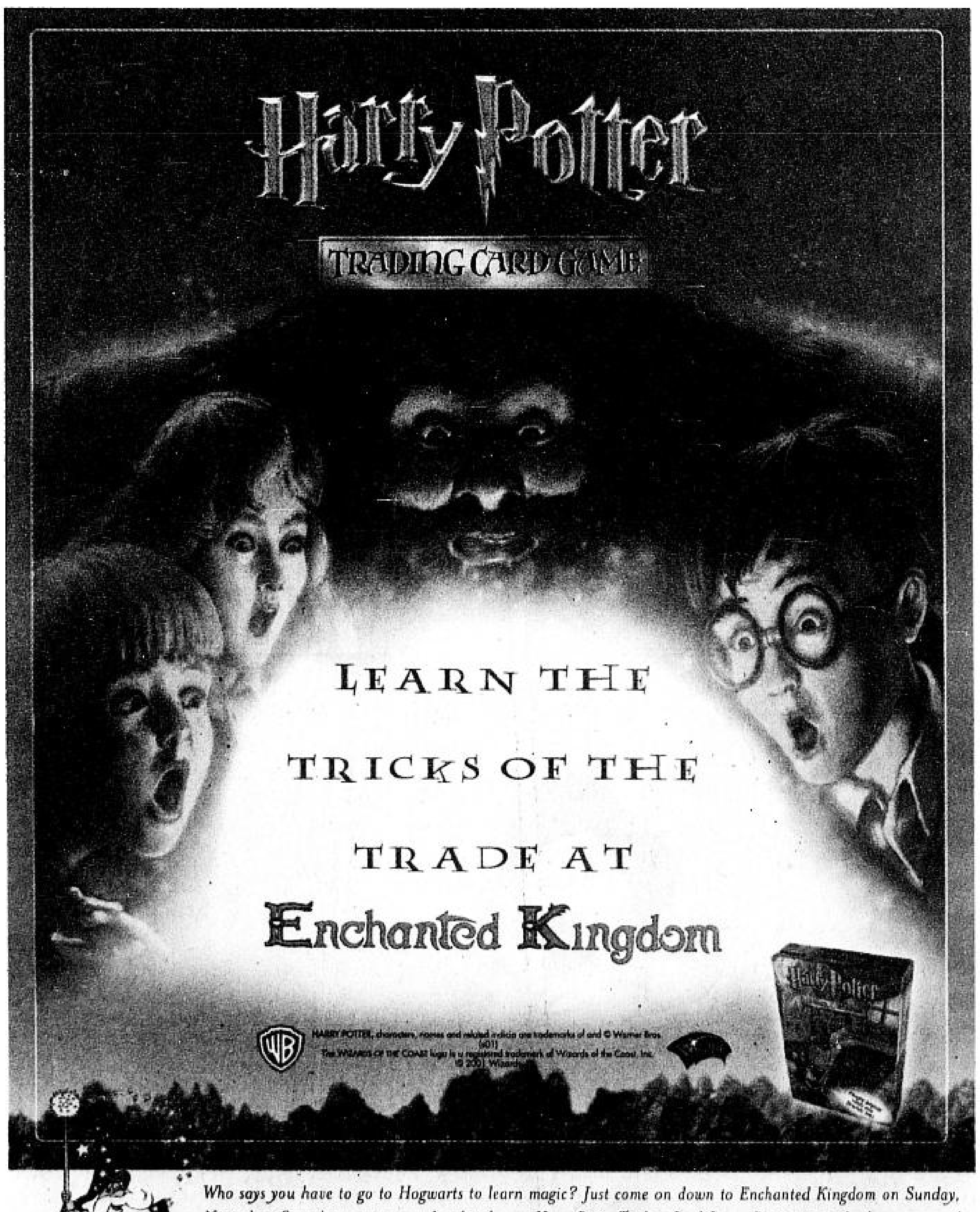


FINALISTS. Clockwise, from top left, Rochelle Estrella, Aubrey Sandejas, Toni Rose Veloso, Angelica Sandel, Carmen Christina Hidalgo and Anna Vanessa Carvajal.

AUCTION
tomorrow November 18, 2001 at 2:30pm



PREVIEW
Saturday November 17th 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday November 18th 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
VENUE
The Tomlinson Collection
40 Jupiter Street cor Paseo de Roxas Avenue Bel-Air Village, Makati Tel/fax: 890 9302



Harry Potter
TRADING CARD GAME
LEARN THE TRICKS OF THE TRADE AT Enchanted Kingdom

Who says you have to go to Hogwarts to learn magic? Just come on down to Enchanted Kingdom on Sunday, November 18, and you can try your hand at the new Harry Potter Trading Card Game. Participate in the demo game and get a chance to take home some collector's edition cards. Or join in the card trade and beef-up your collection. So what are you waiting for? Play your cards right this coming Sunday. Because these magical cards are disappearing fast.

Enchanted Kingdom

Schedule of Activities:
10 am Registration, 11am Golden Snitch Game, 1pm Game Demo, 2pm Fashion Show, 4pm Trivia Whiz Challenge, 5pm "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" movie trailer

Per DTI-LAGUNA Permit No. 31-289, Series of 2001

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Marco Sison hasn't lost his magic on the concert stage

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

BALLADEER for all seasons Marco Sison recently conquered the concert stage once again with a rousing performance, proving that you cannot put a good talent down.

Billed as "MARCO@musicmuseum.CON," the show wasn't only a showcase of Sison's timeless gift of voice, but it was also a chance for the singer to reconnect with his fans. The show had a lot of heart, with the fortysomething Sison giving in to the numerous requests of his audience during the request portion, most of which were Sison's greatest hits, such as "Make Believe" and "My Love Will See You Through."

He also sang today's more popular songs like Five for Fighting's "Superman" and Aiza Seguerra's "Pagdating ng Panahon" with the PUP Chorale. His special guests, Bituin Escalante and Eugene Villaluz, also had their highlights with Sison.

Due to the success of the show, its producers have announced a repeat on the 29th, also at the Music Museum.

Being wholesome becomes Joyce Jimenez

Not a few people have taken notice that bombshell Joyce Jimenez has mellowed. No longer is she the sex kitten who tries to dissuade others from believing that what they see on screen is the same person she is. In other words, she has lessened her defense mechanisms and has embraced life in a more natural and free-spirited manner.

The joy of being wholesome Joyce has also spread into the films she's making. Now, lovemaking sequences are more incidentals than must-haves in her movies. Take her current film, "Ano Bang Meron Ka?" where she plays a lifestyle writer who also dabbles as a party planner.

"I'm really happy that the Monteverdes (Mother Lily and daughter Roselle) have given me good breaks in terms of roles that will allow the audience to see me in a different light," she beams. "Ano Bang Meron Ka?" also happens to be the last film of the late Nida Blanca, who according to Jimenez, inspired her to believe that, more than image, you have to love your true self to succeed in whatever role you play.

Tex Ordoñez shines as Mary Fee

Tex Ordoñez may be petite in body frame but this girl was big in presence when we watched her at the CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute recently in the Tagalog version of "One Hundred Songs of Mary Fee."

Ordoñez, who is already causing a stir as a gifted singer-actress in the theater scene, was in total control of her lines and emotions, and her presence was strong and sweeping throughout.

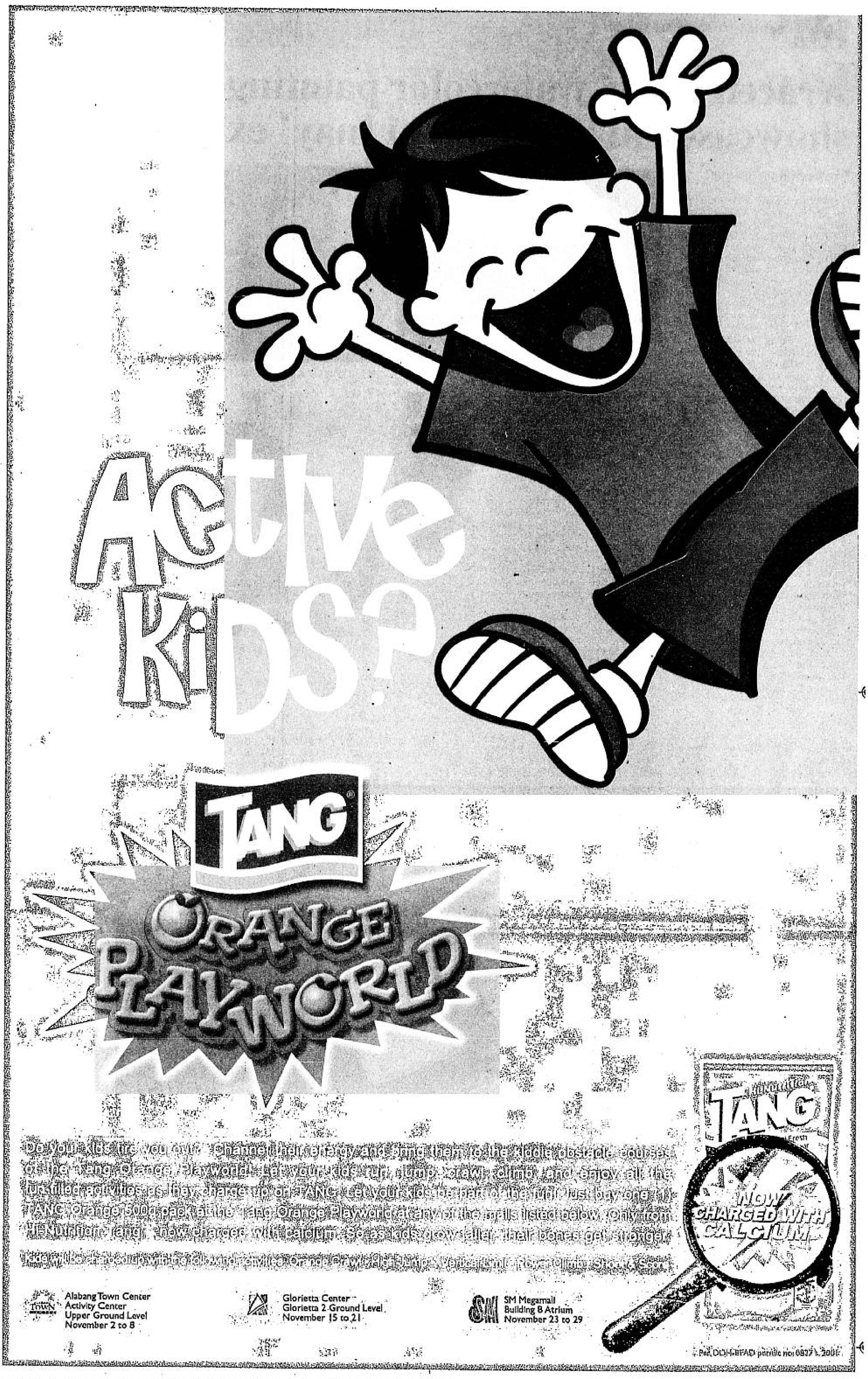
Given more big roles like this one, Ordoñez could be a bankable theatre artist in the future, and an emerging diva on the mainstream scene, too. Call Tanghalang Pilipino at 832-1125 for more details.

Rafael Rosell dreams big

"Tabing Ilog" mainstay Rafael Rosell says that the best things that have happened to him have come as surprises. The former Close-Up boy turned TV star is grateful that he is able to pursue a career in show business, even if it was the farthest from his mind when he was growing up. "Now that I'm in, I think I can continue to dream big, as long as I really work hard for success," he says.

His important role in the weekly teen drama has led advertisers to take a second look at him. Just last week, Rosell inked a year-long contract with Blue Soda to be its official endorser.

SISON. Timeless gift of voice.



Do your kids tire you out? Channel their energy and bring them to the kiddie obstacle courses of the Tang Orange Playworld. Let your kids run, jump, crawl, climb and enjoy all the fun-filled activities as they charge up on TANG. Let your kids be part of the fun! Just buy one (1) TANG Orange 500g pack at the Tang Orange Playworld at any of the malls listed below. Only from Hi-Nutrition Tang, now charged with calcium. So as kids grow taller, their bones get stronger.

Kids will be charged up with the following activities: Orange Crawl, High Jump, Vertical Climb, Rope Climb, Shoot & Score.

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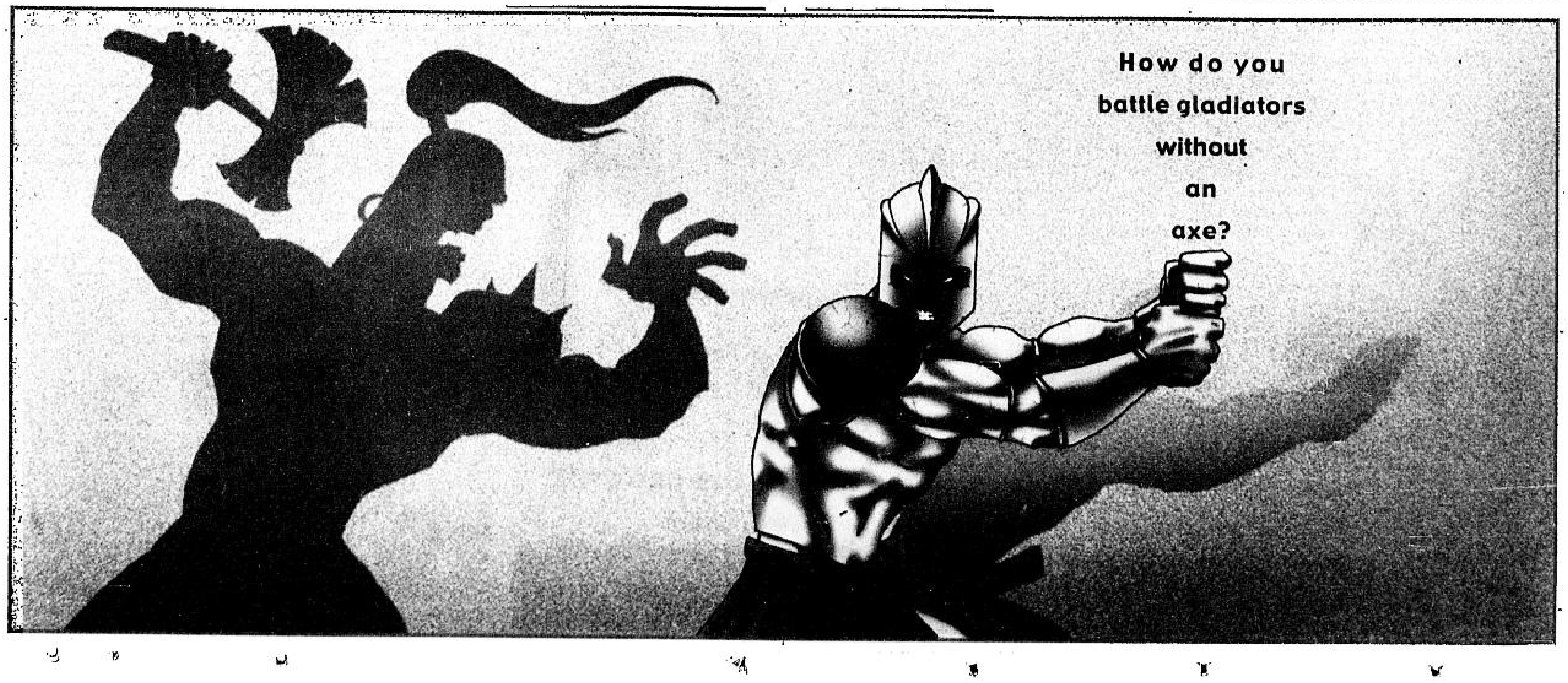
Activity Center
Upper Ground Level
November 2 to 8

Glorietta Center
Glorietta 2 Ground Level
November 15 to 21

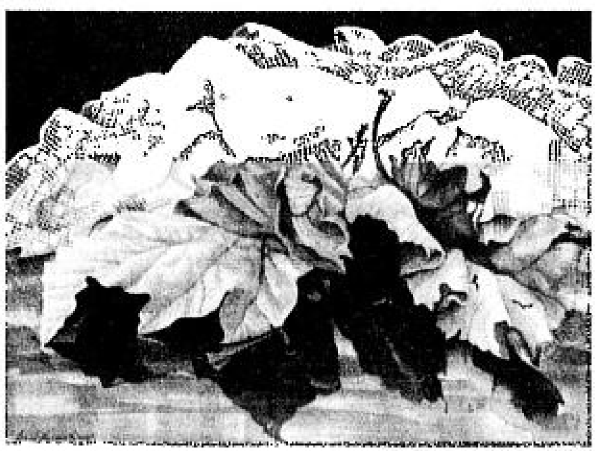
SM Megamall
Building B Atrium
November 23 to 29

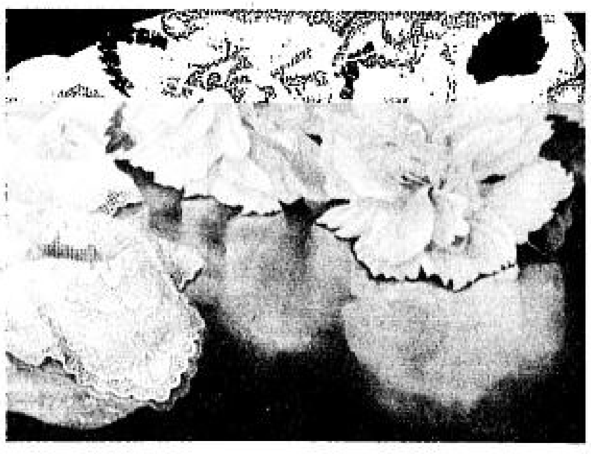
Per DOH-BFAD permit no. 0827 s. 2001



Araceli Dans' watercolor paintings showcased in 'Pamana ni Inay' exhibit

By Nestor U. Torre


"CARIÑOSA"


"MAY GINTO SA HARDIN I"

"PAMANA ni Inay" is a beautiful and apt title for Araceli "Cheloy" Dans' new art exhibit from Dec. 6 to 20 at the Metropolitan Art Gallery, SM Megamall. Dans' signature style consists of watercolor renderings of *calado* embroidery combined with flowers, shells and other complementary or contrasting materials.

The "*pamana*" part of the title suggests the sense of traditional artistry evoked by the *calado* embroidery.

Young artists

As for "Inay," that's exactly what Dans is to several generations of young artists, whose careers she has guided and nurtured with motherly interest. But she can be quite forthright in her critiques, so that her "children" in the visual arts are encouraged to develop their talents to the maximum.

In addition to personal guidance, Dans has also taught art on television, and her shows have won honors from the Citizens' Awards for Television. Thus, she has taught literally hundreds of young artists throughout the country, and some of them have become established names in the art world in their own right.

Dans has worked a full year on her latest collection of *calado* paintings, which require the most delicate artistry and sure-handed skill. Art patrons who collect her works are looking forward to this latest exhibit of Dans' still-life paintings.

Dans' *calado* paintings have become so prized and popular that some imitators have tried to copy her technique. But it's so difficult that they have come up only with rough approximations, and Dans' watercolor artistry in this technique remains unmatched.

Beneficiary

This year, Dans' exhibit has as beneficiary the Bridges Foundation, which runs a school for children with special needs.

Aside from her art, which, she has been developing for many decades now, Araceli Limcaco Dans has also devoted time, love and creative nurturing to her 10 children with the late Jose P. Dans Jr., himself an outstanding engineer, businessman and government official.

Some of her children have become artists and art educators themselves, and a number of her grandchildren have also evinced an early aptitude in the visual arts, a testament to the persuasiveness of Dans' inspiring example.

She has been exhibiting her works since 1960, and her paintings are in the collections of the Ateneo de Manila University, Central Bank of the Philippines, the National Museum and Manila Banking Corp., among other institutions.

Dans' works are also in the private collections of art patrons like Corazon C. Aquino, Napoleon V. Abueva, Cesar A. Buenaventura, Edgardo V. Espiritu, Purita Kalaw Ledesma, Leandro V. Locsin, Luis M. Lorenzo, Ricardo A. Lopa, Eugenio M. Lopez Jr., Osacar M. Lopez, Jose Moreno Jr., Amelita M. Ramos, Carlos P. Romulo and Mercedes S. Tuazon.

President

DANS patiently working on one of her delicately lovely *calado* paintings.

Dans is the president of the UP College of Fine Arts Alumni Foundation and has received numerous honors—among them, the CCP's 100 Artists Centennial Award, the City of Manila's Patnubay ng Sining at Kalinangan, One of Five Top Watercolorists of 1991, and two CAT awards for Best Educational TV Show ("Adventures in Art" and "I Like Art").

More valuable than these and other honors, however, is Dans' special place in the hearts of her family, friends and art lovers as a gifted artist and one of the most kindhearted persons around. That's the best *pamana* of this beloved mother of Philippine visual arts!

LJ Moreno is latest female villain in local telenovelas

By Jocelyn Valle

MORENO. Gets along with everybody.

CLAD in denim bustier and black pants, with her jet-black hair pulled back into a knot at her nape, LJ Moreno unconsciously shows off an interesting tattoo on the upper right side of her back. "It's Casper...with horns," beams the latest *contravida* in local telenovelas (as the new tormentor of Angelika de la Cruz's Katherine role on GMA 7's "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin".

"I got it when I was 14," she relates. "It's my one and only tattoo, and I'm not gonna have one again. *Masakit*! But I like it. It's a lot like me *daw*: nice but at the same time, naughty."

Odd combination

The odd combination, plus LJ's *morena* features and tomboyish ways, make men swoon. She's been linked to a number of great-looking actors, including the then eligible Aga Muhlach, earning her the iniquitous "playgirl" tag.

For the record, LJ had only gone out with Diether Ocampo. They met on the set of the teen program, "Gimik," a few years ago, when LJ was only 16, and the relationship lasted for four years.

She's now 21, and is seeing an African-American she's met through a friend, when he visited the country recently. "His name is Shawn Jones," she tells us of her boyfriend of two months. "He's 25, 6'1" and his skin is like Denzel Washington's. He's from Massachusetts and he teaches kids there how to play basketball."

Shawn has gone back to the States, and LJ complains about not having him around. "*Mahirap talaga ang* long-distance relationship," she sighs. "*Kahit na nag-uusap kami sa* phone everyday."

LJ's openness is a welcome treat for entertainment writers, who are wont to hear evasive comments and blithe denials from show-biz figures. "No," she points out, "I wasn't this open before. '*Yung kay* Diet before, *itinago namin. At saka na lang lumabas.* I've realized *na* the more you hide something, the more *na hindi ka titigilan na magsabi ng totoo*."

LJ has learned to get along well with the press, without trying to be too sweet and polite. "'*Yan ang* personality *ko talaga*," she assures us. "I get along with everybody."

Too, she feels that having actress Alma Moreno for an aunt has helped her accept the kind of world she's in. She also gets advice from Alma's husband Joey Marquez, while learning from the experiences of her cousins Mark Fernandez and Vandolph.

Guidance

She also gets guidance from her manager, Douglas Quijano. "*Sinasabi n'ya kung alin ang* OK *sa* acting *ko at saka sinasabihan n'ya akong mag-ayos*," she says with a chuckle, explaining that she's more comfortable in shirt and jeans than in dresses.

LJ therefore enjoys her work on Channel 7's Tuesday night-sitcom, "Kool Ka Lang," blending well with her male co-stars who include Joey Marquez, Raymart Santiago, Benjie Paras and a host of comedians.

She's in a completely different milieu in "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin," but she's determined to make a mark in drama. It won't be hard as we still remember how she put Jomari Yllana's character under her spell in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Sa Pusod ng Dagat."

LJ also knows that her dark, expressive eyes can give a sharp look. Plus, she's been getting pointers from some old movies that show off Cherie Gil's wickedness.

Voila, televiewers have another TV character to hate. "OK *lang na batuhin nila*," she smiles when asked if she's prepared to be branded as a *contravida*, "*Ibig sabihin*, effective *ang* acting *ko*!"

Freestyle stages 'Symphony in F' at the Big Dome Nov. 24

MONTAGE

FREESTYLE, acknowledged as one of the country's leading bands, mounts a special concert with the 80-piece Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, in Mossimo's "Symphony and F" on Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Freestyle's hits like "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," So Slow" and "Before I Let You Go" will be given new arrangements in keeping with the theme of the show.

The Hunks in Cebu

Fresh from their US tour, The Hunks, made up of Diether Ocampo, Piolo Pascual, Jericho Rosales, Carlos Agassi and Bernard Palanca. will rock Cebu on Nov. 23. First stop is SM Cebu at 1 p.m. for an autograph signing session. The group will also sing its first single "Darating Ka Pala," composed by Moy Ortiz, Edith and Margot Gallardo. At 9 p.m., The Hunks will perform at Jiggy's Bar at Waterfront Lahug under the musical direction of Beth Martin.

For tickets and reservations, call Jiggy's at (032) 232-6888.

Jessa at Music Museum

Jessa Zaragoza performs in her first major solo concert, "Mesmerize" on Nov.20 at the Music Museum.

Jessa says she is both excited and ecstatic about the concert because it will be the very first time that she will be doing full-length concept numbers. "People normally don't see me dancing and singing at the same time.

"Mesmerize" is directed by Dingdong Avanzado with Toti Fuentes as musical director, Joining Jessa on the show are Latin pop band Asciano and the Whiplash dancers. Call 891-5610.

Tessie Tomas repeat

Meldita telling people how she likes pearl shakes—but with South Sea pearls. Ex-starlet Bonnie Buendia out to make a comeback in "Huwag Kang Kikibo, Pagpasok ng Hito." Cotton Bud talking about her love affair with John Cuatro-Campos, her association with Ping Lactum and being a secret agent disguised as a Hong Kong *viajera* buying a Prada bag and shabu at the same time.

These are just some of the zany characters in "Teysi@Tweynti," staged recently at the Music Museum." Tessie Tomas' comedy show will have a repeat on Nov. 28 at 9 p.m. at the Music Museum. Joining Tessie for the repeat are Jon Santos and John Lapus.

Call 721-0635 and 891-5610.

Band at Work at Siete Pecados

Band@work, a seven-man band that combines music, dance and comedy in one entertainment showcase, leads the lineup of RM performers this month.

The band is composed of vocalists Emilia Sunga (also the bandleader), Patricia Yelo and Miller Timogan, bassist Jonathan Valdez, guitarist Edwin Maturan, keyboardist Ricardo Dela Rosa and drummer Nicasio Alfeche.

This month, the band will be at Siete Pecados Wednesdays and at Le Boulevardier Thursdays and Saturdays.

International album for new artist

Singer Teresa Morales is leaving for Canada this month to fulfill a long-time dream, that of recording an album for the international market. The former model from Dumaguete City was on vacation in Canada several months ago, when executives of Hipposonic Music heard her album under Global recording. They were impressed with Teresa's voice and asked her for copies of her other selections. Later, she was asked by the company to record an album for them.

She will stay for several months in Canada to promote the album.

Achievement awardee

Entertainment writer Jobert Sucaldito will get the achievement award for Culture and Arts at the 103rd anniversary celebration of the Cry of Santa Barbara to be held at the Don Herminio Maravilla Memorial Cultural and Recreational Center in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo today at 7 p.m.

'Miss Earth' on Star World

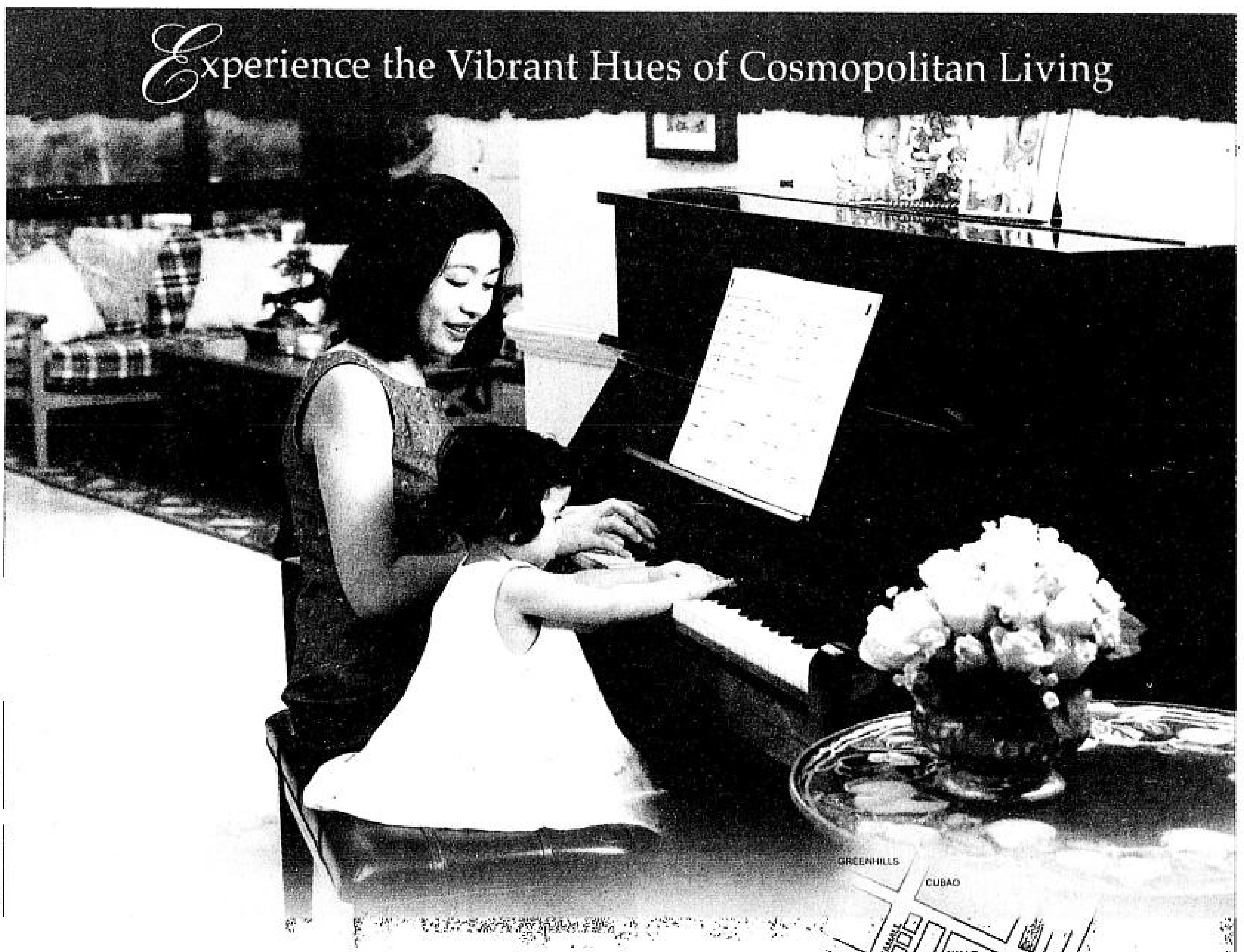
Star World airs the newest international pageant recently held in Manila, "Miss Earth" on Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. with replay on Dec. 1 at 2:30 a.m.

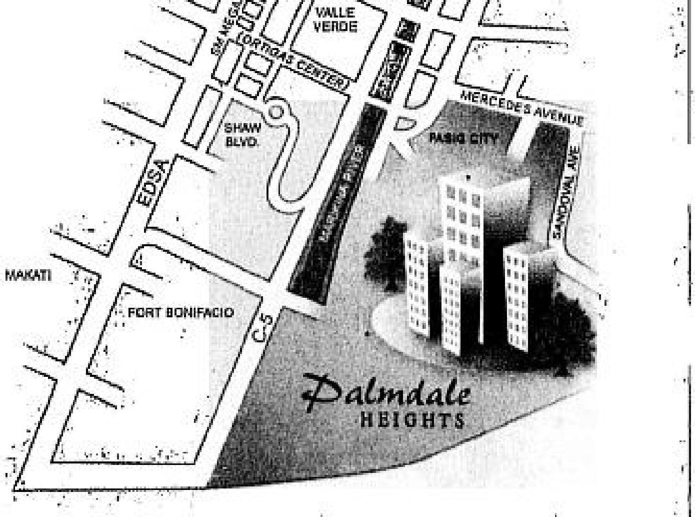
Star Group Limited of Hong Kong is the official international television carrier of this show.

More than50 gorgeous women competed in the event which seeks to promote love and respect for Mother Earth. (***Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam***)

BAND@WORK. Music, dance and comedy.

Experience the Vibrant Hues of Cosmopolitan Living





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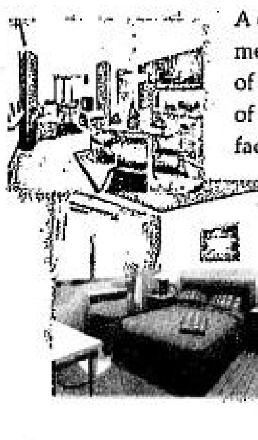

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Visit our show unit at the 2nd floor Benguet Centre cor. ADB & Julia Vargas Avenues, Ortigas Center.

ALBUM REVIEW

'Bubble Boy' soundtrack scores a direct hit

By Noelani Torre

"BUBBLE Boy," despite its title, is not a bubbly sort of movie. One reviewer calls it "a surreal, allegorical, wickedly farcical, romantic-comedy social-satire." It seems like a movie that defies categorization, and so it's fitting that the soundtrack does so, as well.

No immune system

"Bubble Boy" is the story of Jimmy Livingston (Jake Gyllenhaal), a guy who has had to live inside a bubble since the day he was born because he doesn't have a functioning immune system.

Jimmy is controlled by his mother (Swoosie Kurtz), a rather domineering woman. She doesn't want Jimmy to make contact with the outside world, a world he's fiercely allergic to. Thus, Jimmy doesn't venture out of his sealed and plastic-wrapped home until he meets Chloe, the beautiful girl next door.

He falls in love with her but before he can work up the courage to do something about it, she goes to Niagara Falls to marry someone else. When Jimmy finds this out, he finally leaves his home to go after her and try to stop the wedding.

During his road trip he meets a lot of oddball characters and gets involved in all sorts of strange situations, all of which help him grow and discover himself. Thus, he breaks free, not from his real bubble but from the figurative bubble of fear and control that has kept him constrained for a so long.

It's a story that has definite possibilities, but it's the soundtrack that we're interested in here, so let's focus on that.

"Bubble Boy's" soundtrack is released by Varese Sarabande for Touchstone Pictures. And here's the great thing about it—the music is by John Ottman.

Familiar name

Ottman is a familiar name to true-blue film buffs. The 34-year-old is the only film director/editor/composer in Hollywood. He made his directorial debut sometime ago with the popular horror thriller for Columbia Pictures, "Urban Legends: Final Cut."

Ottman rose to fame and stardom with his composing and editing work in the highly praised, noir action-drama, "The Usual Suspects." His editing on that film won him a British Academy Award and a nomination from the American Cinema Editors. His score got him a Saturn Award.

A graduate of the prestigious film school at the University of Southern California, Ottman's film roots extend way into his childhood. Having met director Bryan Singer in film school, he has been collaborating with the man since then. They first teamed up on "Public Access," which Ottman both scored and edited, and went on to win the Grand Jury Prize at the 1993 Sundance Film Festival.

In 1998, he had his third editing/scoring collaboration with Singer in the Nazi-in-suburbia drama, "Apt Pupil," starring Ian McKellen and Brad Renfro.

After his work on "The Usual Suspects," he scored for the Jim Carrey vehicle "The Cable Guy," "Snow White," starring Sigourney Weaver; "Incognito," directed by John Badham; and Steve Miner's "Lake Placid" and "Halloween: H2O." His music has been described as "provocative," "romantic" and "epic." All three adjectives apply to the score he wrote for "Bubble Boy."

22 tracks

Consisting of 22 tracks, John Ottman's music for "Bubble Boy" is a feast for the ear. Although he has written mostly for thrillers and noir films, he makes the shift from dark to relatively light smoothly and with no less style.

From the first burst of music at the "Birth of Bubble Boy" (Track 1) to the short and sweet tones of "Falling Star" (Track 2), the listener is transported into a magical, sometimes surreal world.

Utilizing acoustical instruments, Ottman's "classical orchestral music with a touch of post-modern originality" paints the most vivid pictures. This isn't just background music, this is music that tells stories.

Out favorite track is the first, "Birth of Bubble Boy." The only word that can describe it is *magical*. It conveys a sense of delighted anticipation with its soaring orchestral music and angelic choir.

This is the beginning of the narrative, that magical "Once upon a time . . ." that encourages one to leap into the story, not just listen to it.

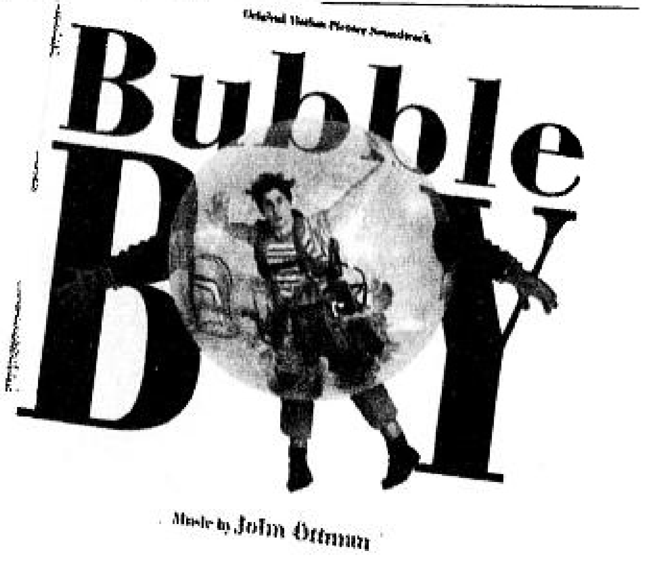
Our other favorites include almost the whole soundtrack, to tell the truth, because the whole work is just terrific. "Phreaks!" is both playful and sinister in a thoroughly fun way. "Heartbroken" is heartbreaking. Melancholic, as befits the title, but not depressingly so.

"Girl Next Door" also caught our attention. It's the fifth track, different in the sense that it's jazzy-and sexy. We love the alto sax in this one.

"Jimmy's Adventure" is epic but not too grandiose. Adventure is the operative word here, and exactly what the music embodies. "Bus Stop" is something one would expect to hear in a Western, cowboy sort of movie, and it somehow manages to fit in with the general scheme and thus doesn't make one disoriented but pleasantly surprised, instead.

"Jimmy Escapes (Rocky)" is another surprise. The original theme is by Bill Conti, but it has the zingier Ottman touch. Other tracks range from tender and poignant, to twangy and bopping, then sad but triumphant.

Ottman is a master storyteller, with music as his tool. "Bubble Boy" is fresh and unique. He manages to weave meaningful themes in the lightest piece of music. The New York Times and other critics may not like the movie itself but we're sure the score will score a direct hit even on the movie's fiercest detractors.



"BUBBLE BOY." A magical, surreal world.

Eat fruits for good health

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

FRUITS do not only look, smell and taste good, they do a whole lot of good for our health. Tropical fruits are especially beneficial as well as economical for us Filipinos.

Dietician

How much do you appreciate our local fruits? I myself knew very little until I read an article by Indra Balaratnam, a dietician and food consultant for Finder magazine in Malaysia. He provided interesting information regarding fruits we often take for granted:.

"Guava—A medium-sized fruit has more than three times the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) of Vitamin C. It has five times more vitamin C than an orange. The concentration of nutrients is in the rind, so don't skin it before eating. It contains a soluble fiber—pectin—that helps reduce blood cholesterol when incorporated with a low-fat diet.

Banana—A great fruit for every one, as it's easy to digest. Its high potassium content makes it an ideal food to help reduce hypertension. One of the best sources of Vitamin B6, it keeps the immune system strong. You can munch on a banana in between endurance sporting events to get a quick carbohydrate boost.

Beta carotene

Mango—Just half a mango provides all the beta carotene (precursor of Vitamin A) and half the vitamin C you need in a day.

Papaya—It is the second best most nutritious fruit, after the kiwi. It has more beta carotene than apricots, more potassium than a banana and more vitamin C than an orange.

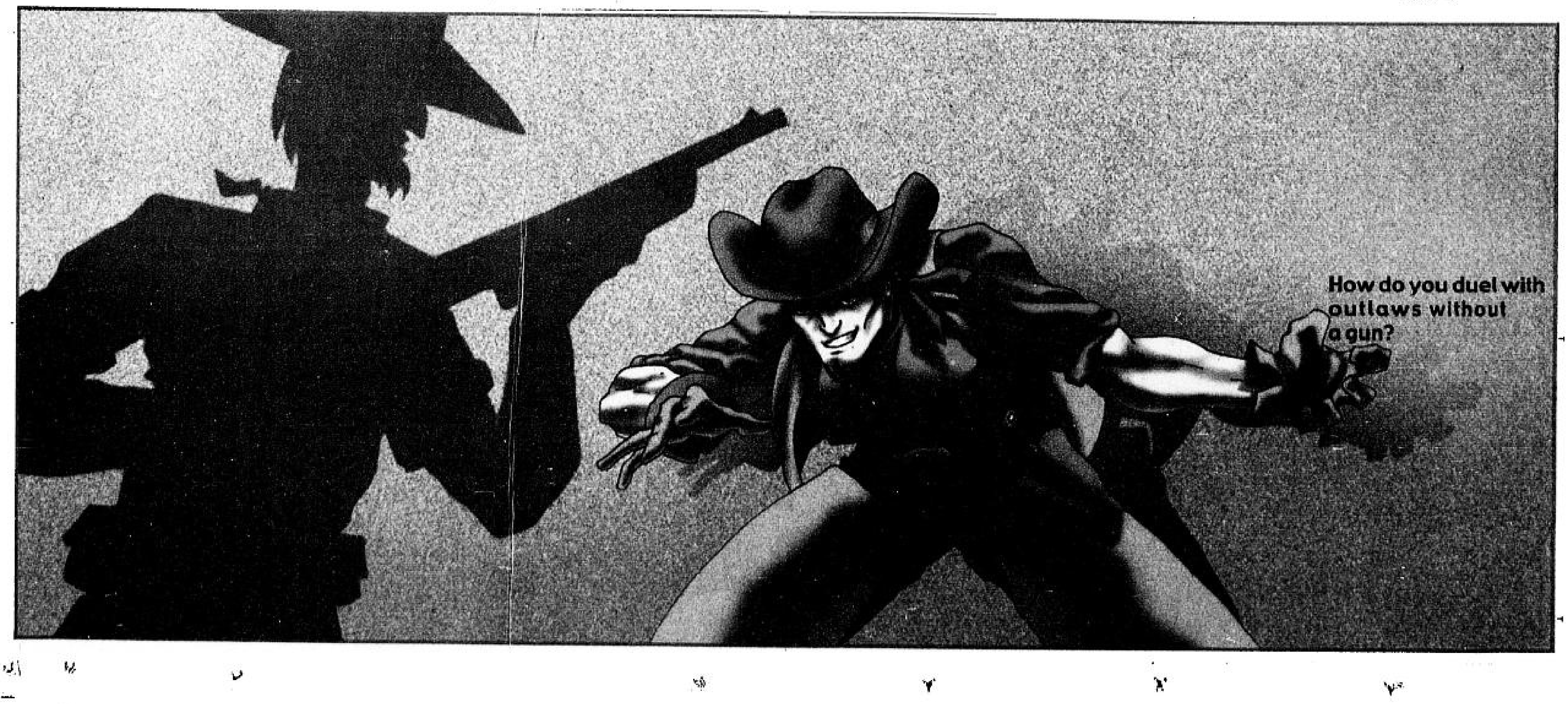
Carambola (star fruit or balimbing)—Its edible, waxy skin contains fiber which helps in reducing high blood cholesterol levels. Remove the brown line from the ribs to eliminate oxalic acid, which may make the fruit taste a little bitter.

Enzyme

Pineapple—It contains an antibacterial enzyme called bromelain, which has anti-inflammatory properties for our system. It is great for preventing osteoporosis and bone fractures due to its very high manganese content. If you feel stuffed after a big meal, eat a slice of pineapple to aid digestion. Pineapples also tame PMS (pre-menstrual syndrome) mood swings by imitating characteristics of the hormone estrogen."

Knowing these pieces of information about our local fruits should induce us to partake of Mother Nature's natural and economical health foods. Just remember that you don't need to be rich to be healthy—you just need to be wise!

Junior INQUIRER
Every Saturday with the Inquirer
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
News that makes a difference


How do you duel with outlaws without a gun?

An out-of this-world interview with Ms Nida Blanca

(with a little help from her bosom friend, Caridad Sanchez)

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

LAST Tuesday, on the eve of her interment a week after her death, I went to Nida Blanca's wake of at the White Plains subdivision chapel. I had to go to the powder room but it was occupied. I was told there was a beauty parlor in the multipurpose center under the chapel, so I went there.

Interesting conversation

Inside the parlor, I was mystified to come face-to-face with Nida. We had a most interesting conversation:

Nids, this is a surprise! People are coming to see you upstairs in the chapel, why are you here in the beauty parlor?

Inday, I have a very important appointment. All those friends and beloved fans upstairs, I'm really so touched by all the attention, but I cannot miss this appointment and I have to be very pretty for it.

But you've always been not just pretty but picture-perfect beautiful!

Yeah, but somebody disfigured my face so I have to fix it up a bit so will be pretty for my appointment.

With whom do you have this important appointment *ba?*

With God. I have to make *daw kasi* a complete accounting of everything I did in my life on earth. *Pero, alam mo,* Inday, I'm very excited and I really look forward to meeting my Maker.

When you finally meet God, what are you going to tell Him? Are you going to ask Him for anything?

Uhmmm, I don't know If I'd have the courage to still ask Him for anything, considering that He has already blessed me with so much in life. But then, perhaps, I'd ask Him to grant the grace for my family, friends and fans to get over their grief.

Happy

If it were up to me, I'd gently tell them to spare me the tears. Please sing no sad songs for me. I'm happy where I am right now.

NIDA BLANCA. Sing no sad songs for her, please.

Do you have time for a little interview?

Go right ahead, Inday. After all, you're already asking me questions!

You said you're happy now. Are you at peace? I mean, considering the violence that marked your passing.

Oh, I'm very much at peace. Two years ago, the Lord invited me to a renewal through my friend Caring (Caridad Snachez) and I'm glad I accepted the invitation. I went to bible studies quite regularly. You know, Inday, once you've tasted God, you'll forever thirst and hunger for Him. That was what happened to me.

Now, where I am right now, how can I not be happy? How can I not be at peace? I can now have my fill of Him. As for my murder, well I'm confident that will be solved. Truth has this uncanny ability of coming out sooner or later. I'm sure you know that better than most, Inday. *Di ba,* "Nothing But the Truth" *pa nga ang* title of your very first TV show?

As a movie star, you had a very public life. But you also did have a secret life, didn't you?

Oh, yeah. But don't ask me about that anymore, Inday. *Ikaw talaga.* I've lifted all that up to God and we had a deal on that *na*—I repented and He forgave.

What can you say about our movies today, Nida? Up to the day you died, you were a member of the Movie and TV Review and Classification Board and reviewed a lot of Tagalog movies.

Oh, there are reasons to be disappointed. Like, there has always been this problem with too much sex and violence in our movies, *di ba?* And even though we have our share of good movies, I can say that the quality of our total output is disappointing.

Artists

Especially with all these artists saying they have a right to this and a right to that, but they disregard the right of the public to be protected from excessive sex and violence.

But, one reason why the movie industry is the way it is, relying on sex and violence to attract people, is because there aren't many incentives from the government. And we are heavily taxed, like they raised *pa* to 20 percent our withholding tax. That is too much *naman!*

Nids, you belong to what is called the golden age of Philippine movies. Can you tell us about those times compared to today?

It was really different during our time, Inday. My God, I was already considered wild then. But we had a morality clause in our contracts. Like, Doña Sisang would always tell us not to have a boyfriend. Or if we had one, not to flaunt it. We had to be very careful about our image because, once it was destroyed, it could also destroy us.

Doña Sisang was very strict. Whenever we went out, we should always be made up and dressed accordingly, with not a single strand of hair out of place. Unlike the movie stars today who go shopping and malling *na nakadamit-pambahay lang.* You see, as movie stars, we have a responsibility to our fans to always set the standard for fashion, beauty and good grooming.

Obligation

But then, of course, times have changed. In our time, we were very aware of our obligation to the public. *Kasi,* movie stars have a very big influence on the people, *e.* Whatever we do becomes the *uso.* And that's not only when it comes to the clothes we wear, *ha? Kapag ang artita, papalit-palit ng* boyfirend *o sabay-saby kung mag-*boyfriend, that becomes *uso* also. *Kaya* movie stars should always be aware of that power.

If someone were to write a book about your life, what would you like to be edited out?

Ah, I won't have anything edited out. People can learn a lot of things from my life, including the mistakes. My life is like a soap opera at its best or at its worst, depending on whether you like soap operas. *Ay, grabe.* From the beginning up to the end, it's like a script from a melodrama.

Call slip

I love my life. Of course, when it was time for me to go, it was time for me to go. But if, let's say, I was given a choice, I wouldn't want to go yet. *Kaya lang, pindalhan na ako ng* call slip, *e.* So I had to be professional about it! (Laughs)

Siguro, if they make a movie on my life, they'll have to use different stars for the different stages. Like, Serena Dalrymple for the childhood part, Judy Ann Santos for the teenager days, Maricel Soriano for the young adult, and *siguro si* Vilma Santos *sa huli, pero patatandain siya nang konti. Naku, and laki siguro ng* budget. (Laughs).

Do you have any regrets?

Ay, wala. I did it all. Except *siguro,* for one thing. I never had a grandchild, *'no?*

How would you like to be remembered?

As someone who did her best—as a daughter to *Nanay,* as a wife to Rod, as a mother to Kay, and as an actress in the industry I loved and that loved me back. I've had my share, of course, of life's ups and downs, *gaya nga ng sabi ni* Frank Sinatra. But I did my best. And that's about the only thing *naman* that we should ever expect from anyone, *di ba?*

For clarification *lang,* Nids. There was talk *kasi* that you wanted to be cremated, but this wasn't done.

That is not *naman* an issue with me. A few days before I died *kasi,* Bong Eraña (former LVN child actress Nenita Vidal) died and she was cremated. I said that I also wanted it when it was my turn to go. But I meant I wanted it if I'd die of natural or uncontroversial causes. Also, *Nanay* wanted me to have a nice, old-fashioned burial, so that was OK.

Investigation

One thing more, I understand that the authorities didn't want my body cremated because they might want to examine it again to help them in the investigation."

Do you have any message for Kay?

Uhmmm, I know that she's very capable now and can take care of herself. One of the best decisions I ever made in my life was letting her go to the States. That made her really come into her own. *Sa ngayon,* I hope she fixes everything first before she goes back to the States, especially the properties. And I also hope that she and Rod can get to know each other more.

And how about Rod? Do you also have a message for him?

Si Rod, I'd urge him to go back to the States. He should take care of his mother there. I'd like to tell him *na* he shouldn't burden himself thinking about how to take care of Nanay. Ditas and my other *pamangkins* can do that. And I'd also tell him to find a girl. If he wants, he can marry again. The most important thing right now is, he should learn to dry the tears. Life is too short to waste on grief.

Thanks you very much, Nids.

Thank you also, Inday. And I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who came, sent or brought flowers and mass cards, and offered prayers for me. Thank you for all the love. I just hope I loved you enough also in my lifetime.

Nice welcome

Sige, Inday, I have to go *na.* I'd hate to be late for my appointment! And, by the way, please tell my friend, Caring, that I'm keeping an eye on her. If she wants to come and join me here, all she needs to do is to look up and I'll give her a nice welcome. (Laughs).

Ah, Caring said for you not to bother. Don't wait up for her. When it's time for her *daw,* she's sure she'll find her way around there. She intends to stay here much longer *pa, e.* And, Nids, when you get to your appointment, please say something nice about all of us here, *ha?*

AM/FM

Good laughs, troubling indiscretions on dzMM advice show

BY RITO P. ASILO

ADVICE shows on the radio often feature kind-hearted hosts with an even kinder, if patronizing, manner of dealing with their listeners.

Brutally frank

"Whispers of the Heart with Dr. Lab," (weekdays, 10 to 12 midnight, dzMM 630 kHz AM) hosted by Jun Banaag, is different because its host wears his heart on his sleeve. We were initially surprised by the number of listeners who wanted a piece of Jun's advice regarding their problems. But we later found out this was because, unlike most advice program hosts, Banaag does not mince words. He does not insult his listeners, but he is frank—brutally so at times—and his avid followers don't seem to mind.

The first 30 minutes of the show are reserved for greeting friends, while the last hour and 30 minutes are for counseling. In the first portion, Jun would sometimes feature upcoming singers and their songs. When a certain Hec, a newcomer from San Francisco, guested on the show to promote his debut single, "Para sa Inyo," they had an on-the-air contest and the prize was a copy of his new album.

The question was simply, "What is the real name of Hec?" Of course the answer was mentioned earlier during Banaag's tete-a-tete with the singer. But when calls started pouring in, and when callers were asked the question, the common answer was, "*Hindi ko alam.*" These people would be ideal contestants in Edu Manzano's "The Weakest Link," if you ask us!

Different tone

The second portion takes on a totally different tone—very personal and, at times, intense.

When we tuned in a couple of weeks ago, we were pleasantly surprised and enjoyed listening to the program, not only because of Banaag's straightforward way of dealing with his listeners but also because of his dry sense of humor.

Dr. Lab is funny, irreverent. After introducing a caller in a melodramatic way, "*Tunghayan natin ngayon ang kasaysayan ni* Emmie," Jun found himself talking to nobody at the other end of the line—"Hello! *Nakatulog*!" But after a few seconds, the voice of the caller came on, "Hello, Dr. Lab?" Banaag answered, "Hello *ka rin*!"

Apparently, the woman caller's sob story was that of a wife who had been neglected and emotionally and verbally abused by her husband for two years now. He told her that he had lost his love for her, but that it wasn't her fault.

Banaag responded, "Don't settle for that answer. You deserve more than that. *Kalokohan, malaking kagaguhan. Ano ba s'ya,* abnormal *na hindi n'ya alam kung bakit? May dahilan 'yan,* and you have the right to know." We totally agreed with him.

He added, "He has to tell you the reason—*kung hindi ka na naliligo, baka amoy-tinga ka, o kaya'y baka hindi ka na marunong gumamit ng pulbo o* cologne! If he knows that the problem is not with you, the more he should know what the problem really is. *Wala siyang b_y_g!*"

Lame reasons

Not contented with Banaag's answer, the woman asked, "*Bakit po kaya?*" And he answered, "*Aba'y ewan ko! Itanong mo sa kanya!*" We didn't know how to react—whether to laugh at Banaag's answer, cry for the woman, or fume over the husband's lame reasons.

When the caller sighs audibly on the phone, Banaag said, "*Huwag mong hipan ang telepono!*" And that got us snickering.

Another (19-year-old) caller said she wanted to end her relationship with her live-in partner. Banaag readily agreed, "Go ahead. He doesn't want to give you his name, he does not want a wife, a commitment. All he wants is a maid and free sex."

One woman who agreed to live with a man outside of marriage for 16 years got this remark from Banaag, "*Sira pala ang ulo mo! Pumayag ka na makipag-*live-in for 16 years, and you expect him to marry you? *E bakit ka pa niya pakakasalan?*" Our thoughts exactly.

Then he went on to lecture his women listeners: "*Mga babae, kayo mismo ang magtaas ng dignidad ng inyong pagkatao! Hanggang kailan kayo pagsasamantalahan?* I'm telling you this because you know that my life is an open book. Been there, done that. I know what I'm talking about." Impressive, huh?

Another problem

Another problem was from a guy whose story seemed to be based loosely on "Romeo and Juliet:" Two families dislike like each other because they are both poor. Each set of parents wants their kid to marry well. But love prevailed. The guy and the gal met in secret, but she got pregnant and the lovers decided to abort the two-month-old fetus! Now, the guy sends the gal to school and hopes to marry her someday, wishing to live happily ever after with her, but the hurdles are tough.

Banaag said, "It's great that you are both fighting for your love. But it's funny for a poor family to discriminate against another poor family." But this wasn't what capped his reaction: "*Pinatay ninyo ang bata?! Ano'ng naging kasalanan ng bata sa inyo at siya ang inyong pinatay? Hindi dapat pinapakialaman ninuman ang pagmamahalan ng dalawang nilalang, ngunit kailangang ikumpisal niyo ang inyong kasalanan sa Diyos at sa bata!*" The guy didn't even sound apologetic or horrified!

Banaag went on to describe how fetuses are aborted, mashed, pulled, and suctioned to bits by women and men who want to forget their indiscretions at the snap of a finger—and through an abortionist's needle. He reasoned, "*Ang bawat isa sa atin ay may pananagutang ingatan ang buhay.*" We couldn't agree more.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV 17 - NOV 23

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	[illegible]
[illegible]	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Auto Review 6:30 Uncut 7:00 Saturday Primetime Special 9:00 The Bodyguards 10:00 Explore with Mike 11:00 Auto Focus 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Wing Commander 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Ms. America 2002 Part 2* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Imbestigador 6:30 Bitoy's World 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's Best 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Special Unit II 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Kagat Ng Dilim 11:00 IBC Elorde	6:00 Digital Tour 6:30 G2 Living 7:00 Explorer 7:30 Early Edition 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 12:00 MYX Sampler	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Jessica Hahn* 9:00 In Focus 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Fran Drescher* 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Isiah Thomas*
[illegible]	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Pinoy Exposed 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	3:00 MBA 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Sunday's Big Showdown 11:00 Business & Leisure 11:30 Fox News	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *Paper Boy* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Pokemon 7:30 Sinerama 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Where in Time is Carmen San Diego 8:30 Kids Say the Darndest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Jerry Maguire* 11:00 Sunday Report 11:30 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:30 PBA Game 2 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 Sinemaks 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Starship Troopers 6:30 Rugrats 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Bette 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Murder in Smalltown X 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! News Special *Princess Diana's Legacy* 7:30 E! News Special *Celebs in Crisis* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Joey Heatherton* 9:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Claudia Jennings*
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 FPJ Action Cinema 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	5:00 Metro TV 6:00 Value Vision 7:00 Sigaw 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Speed 11:00 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Touched By An Angel 9:30 On Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 DragonballZ 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Pinoy Blockbusters 10:00 Kiss Muna 11:00 Front Page 11:30 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Becker 7:30 Arliss 8:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Beat UK 7:00 Primetime Classics 7:30 The Nanny 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Jenny Jones 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus *Erotica '97* 8:00 Mysteries and Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild On *Dixie* 12:00 Talk Soup
[illegible]	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Game K N B? 8:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 9:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 9:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 10:00 Oka Tokat 10:30 Kabalikat 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X	5:00 Value Vision 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Fox News	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:30 FX The Series	6:00 Saksi 7:00 Lupin III 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:00 Kasangga 11:00 Front Page 11:30 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 The Extremist	6:30 Viva Box Office 8:30 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:30 The Weakest Link 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Good Take	6:00 Later with Jools 7:00 Priemtime Classics 7:30 Popular 8:30 The Others 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Zine 12:00 MYX Sampler	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Brendan Fraser* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
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Home for pregnant women

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

A FEELING of calmness suffuses the visitor who enters the courtyard of The Red Cross Welcome Center. Social worker Noemi Abon leads the way to a section at the back of the main building where some nine young ladies, some still infanticipating and other who have just delivered their babies, are lounging or engaged in various activities.

This is just the place for women who are at the most difficult crossroads of their lives. Very few people know it, but Ms Rosa Rosal, the indefatigable Red Cross volunteer who metamorphosed into a governor of the Philippine National Red Cross, founded the center in 1995.

First pregnancies

According to Red Cross social services manager Zenaida Beltejar, they are very selective when it comes to the women they accept here. They must be first-time victims only on their first pregnancies and must have normal mental capacities. The Center accommodates at least 20 ladies at a time.

The women learn to become each other's support system. Forced by circumstances to stay together in rooms and live in a dormitory-like situation with common areas, they learn to advise and console each other and even take care of each other's newly-born baby.

Zeny administers to them like a mother hen, even if they have a den mother in social worker Andrea Bolhayon, the house-in-charge. Zeny's advice is practical and delivered firmly, and the girls know she means to enforce the house rules which give them anonymity and refuge, even if they may have troublesome court cases, husbands, boyfriends or families.

Special haven

The property is owned by the Holy Spirit sisters, and the Red Cross is allowed to use the place for 10 years. It is rented out practically free by the kind sisters and the confluence of events that created this special haven is a wonderful story that needs to be told.

A couple, Dr. Vicente Ferriols and his wife, a nurse, Modesta Jamias Ferriols, were the original owners of the property. The wife was the first graduate in Nursing at Philippine Women's University. They had four children, a boy and three girls. The boy became a Jesuit priest while the three became sisters of the Holy Spirit, one of them belonging eventually to a contemplative order, the Pink Sisters.

Vicente died first, leaving Modesta, who eventually was taken care of by the sisters of the Holy Spirit. The four children eventually willed the property to the Holy Spirit order.

Halfway house

The Ferriols' home is, in a way, a halfway house where all the residents are transients. Zeny and her staff have.. established a good relationship with their donors, among them, Pagcor, Sampaloc Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, and the Technology and Resource Center or TLRC, which trains the mothers-in waiting in livelihood skills like crocheting and sowing. Because some of the women are victims of rape and incest, they also interact with the Department of Justice and the Women's Legal Bureau.

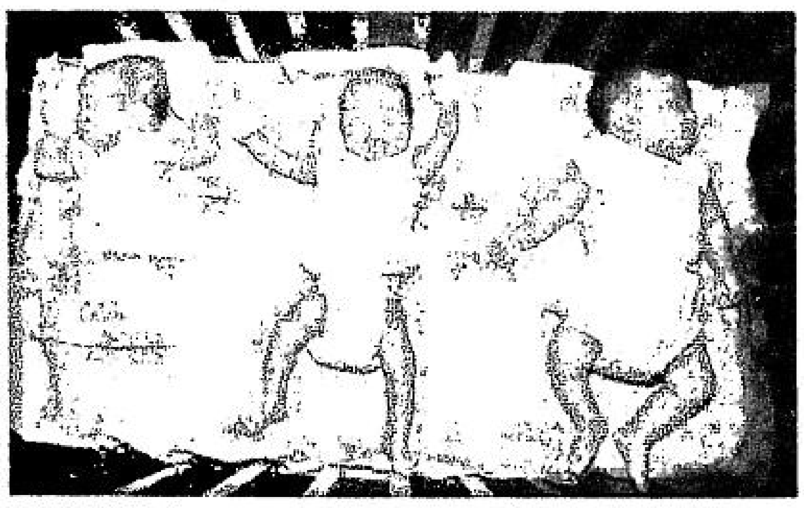
The presence of the Holy Spirit sisters, some of whom occupy the other half of the structure, is a calming and blessed presence to the distressed women.

The Ms Millennium Philippine National Red Cross 2001 contest is on Dec. 5 at the Manila Hotel. Fifty-two contestants from different parts of the Philippines will vie for the goodwill title. For further inquiries about the Red Cross Welcome Center For Women or for donations, call 527-0867, office of Zenaida Beltejar at PNRC.

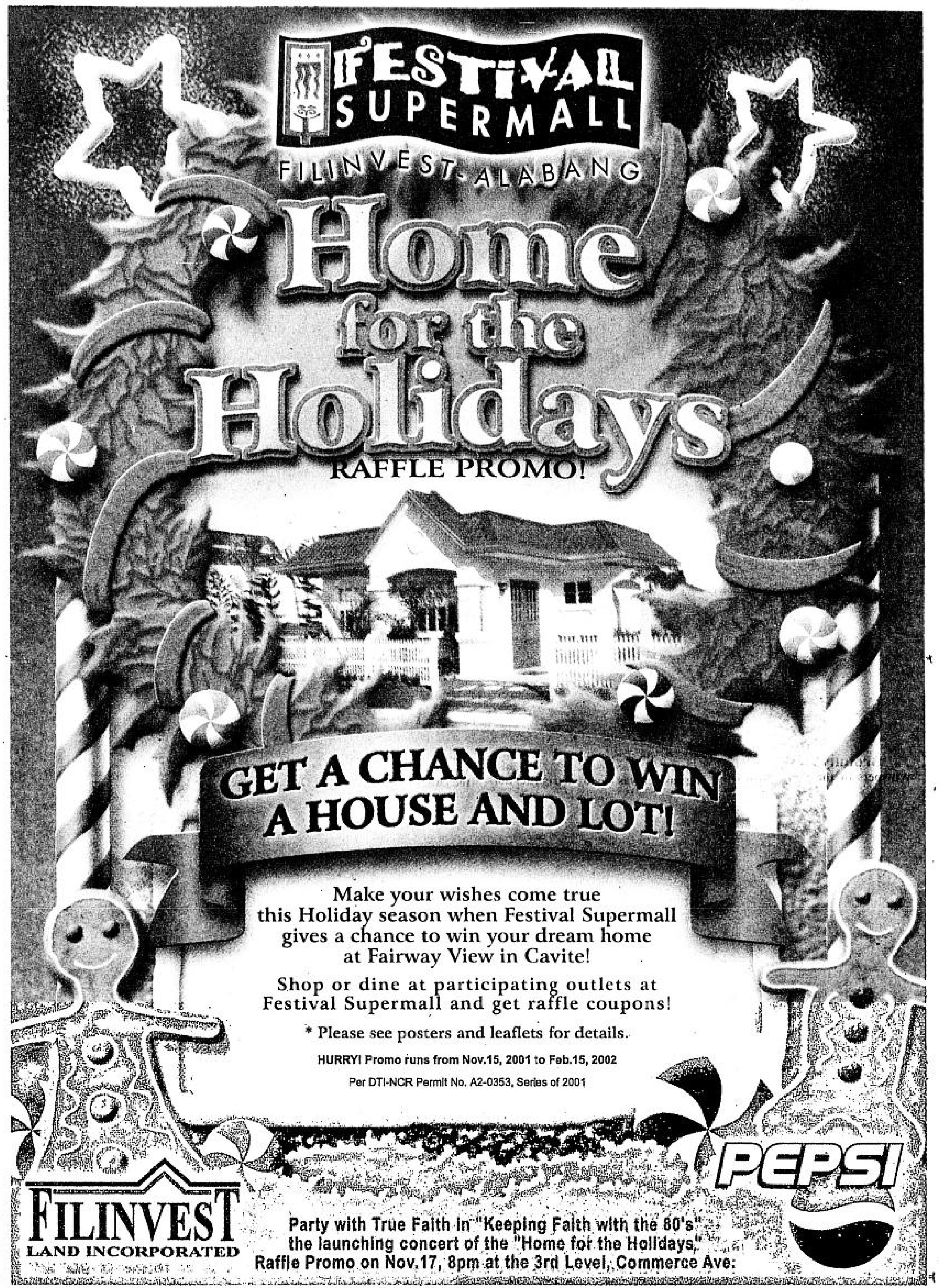
MOTHERS-IN-WAITING are trained in livelihood skills like crocheting.

THE RED Cross Welcome Center is a place for women who are at the most difficult crossroads of their lives.

SEATED, from left, are Sr. Sofia Cinches, SSPS, Zenaida Beltejar and Sr. Velia Angela. Standing, from left, are Andrea Bolhaym, Loreto Montarciego and Noemi Abu.



RESIDENTS learn to take care of each other's newborn babies.



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Vampire Slayer is a single-player, multi-thread adventure game. Each day, you are faced with a brand new adventure. A successful mission earns you 300 points and you are penalized 50 points for each failure.

GLADIATOR WARS:
It is 200 A.D. and Claudius has a tenuous rule over Rome. His generals squabble over territory. And as a gladiator, it is your duty to settle these disputes in the only forum you know - the Coliseum.

Gladiator Wars is a single and dual-player game. With each battle, you can choose to be a lion, a cobra or a gladiator. Each victory is 30 points. Each loss costs 20 points. Draws earn 10 points for each player.

DUDE RANGER:
The west is as wild as ever. And spats between outlaws and lawmen have reached boiling point. The Sheriff is six feet under, and that leaves you to deal with the desperados.

Dude Ranger is a single and dual-player game. You can be an Outlaw or a Deputy, it's your choice. A successful hit on your opponent wins the game and earns you 200 points. Get hit and it will cost you the same.

To register a nickname:
Type REG <nickname> Ex. REG Bruno
Send to 288.
You will receive a confirmation of your registration.

How to play Vampire Slayer:
Type VS PLAY to play Vampire Slayer.
Send to 288.
Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

How to play Gladiator Wars:
Type GW PLAY to play Gladiator Wars.
Send to 288.
Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

How to play Dude Ranger:
Type DR PLAY to play Dude Ranger.
Send to 288.
Follow further instructions of the confirmation message.

For more instructions on how to play, type <game keyword> HELP and send to 288. Ex. VS HELP

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- Menu graphics
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Mark Wahlberg goes from fan to rock idol

Wahlberg's character was born to rock, but instead of writing his own music, he worships at the altar of a fiery rock legend

'ROCK STAR' BAND MEMBERS. Rocket to the dizzing heights of musical stardom.

GET ready to rock with Mark Wahlberg ("Planet of the Apes") and Jennifer Aniston (TV's "Friends") in Warner Bros,' new romantic-drama, "Rock Star."

Fiery frontman

In the film, Chris Cole (Wahlberg) was born to rock. His longtime girlfriend Emily (Aniston) believes Chris's talent could take him all the way—but instead of writing his own music, Chris worships at the altar of Bobby Beers, the fiery frontman for Steel Dragon, the rock legends that both inspire and consume his life.

When his bandmates boot him out of the group he founded, Chris is devastated—until an unexpected phone call changes his life forever: he, Chris Cole, has been tapped to replace Bobby Beers as the lead singer of Steel Dragon.

In an instant, Chris rockets to the dizzying heights of sudden stardom, rising from devotee to icon, from the ultimate rock fan to the ultimate rock god—the wanna-be who got to be.

The idea for "Rock Star" first began to take shape as producer Robert Lawrence perused the New York times one Sunday morning. "I read this fascinating story about a tribute band member who became a real rock star—who replaced the very singer he had been impersonating for years," remembers Lawrence. "The notion of a tribute band member who ultimately played in the actual band was extremely intriguing to me."

Secret fantasy

Screenwriter John Stockwell immediately connected with the story, saying, "I think it's everyone's secret fantasy to be plucked from obscurity and catapulted into fame and fortune."

Director Stephen Herek was drawn to the project for several reasons. "I've always loved rock and toll," explains Herek, "and I've always loved musicals, and this is sort of a modern-day musical—without people breaking into song right in the middle of a scene or anything. In this story, we get to watch a character who's living his dream—and we get to go along for the ride and peek behind the curtain a little bit to see how crazy this world actually is."

Wahlberg was attracted to Stockwell's story, the characters and the rock and roll backdrop. "I had never really listened to rock or metal," the former hip-hop artist admits. "My background as a musician was pretty different from what is portrayed here, and I thought it would be a challenge.

"Just walking around in those tight pants and being comfortable enough on stage to move the way these guys did—that was a challenge right there!"

The filmmakers were thrilled when Wahlberg signed on to portray Chris Cole. "Mark is an amazing actor, and one of the most dedicated and hardworking professionals I've worked with," says producer Toby Jaffe. "He absolutely immersed himself in the character and really brought Chris to life. His dedication was amazing—he would typically work 12-to-14-hour days, after having arrived on the set hours early to rehearse stage choreography or work on guitar and vocals."

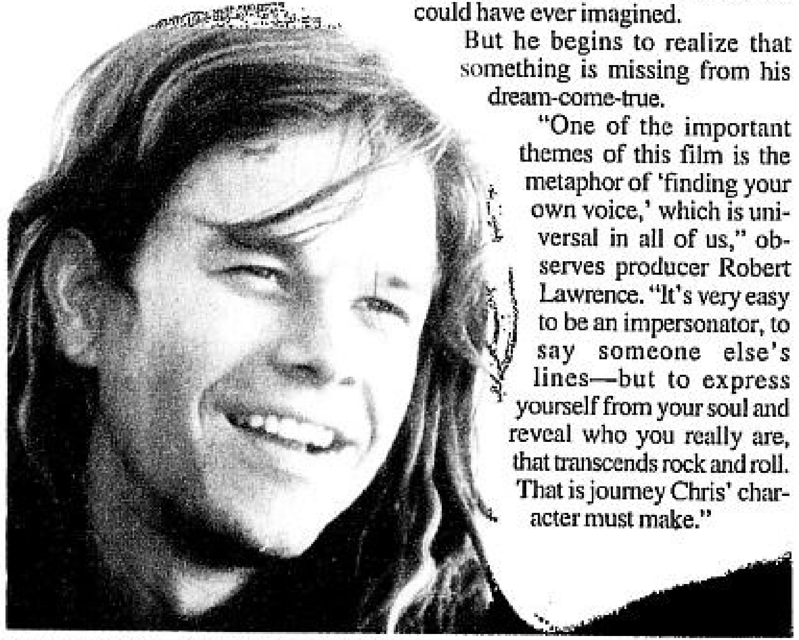
Innate talent

"Mark is one of the most talented guys around," Herek agrees. "I've always loved his movies, and actually working with him has been a wonderful experience. He was living this character—he works his tail off, and he has this tremendous innate talent and ability—he's just incredible."

When Chris Cole is chosen as Steel Dragon's lead singer, he is transformed from a small-town nobody into an instant icon; it all seems way too good to be true. The perks of his sudden hard rock stardom—the screaming fans, sexy groupies, expensive toys and wild parties—are more than he could have ever imagined.

But he begins to realize that something is missing from his dream-come-true.

"One of the important themes of this film is the metaphor of 'finding your own voice,' which is universal in all of us," observes producer Robert Lawrence. "It's very easy to be an impersonator, to say someone else's lines—but to express yourself from your soul and reveal who you really are, that transcends rock and roll. That is journey Chris' character must make."



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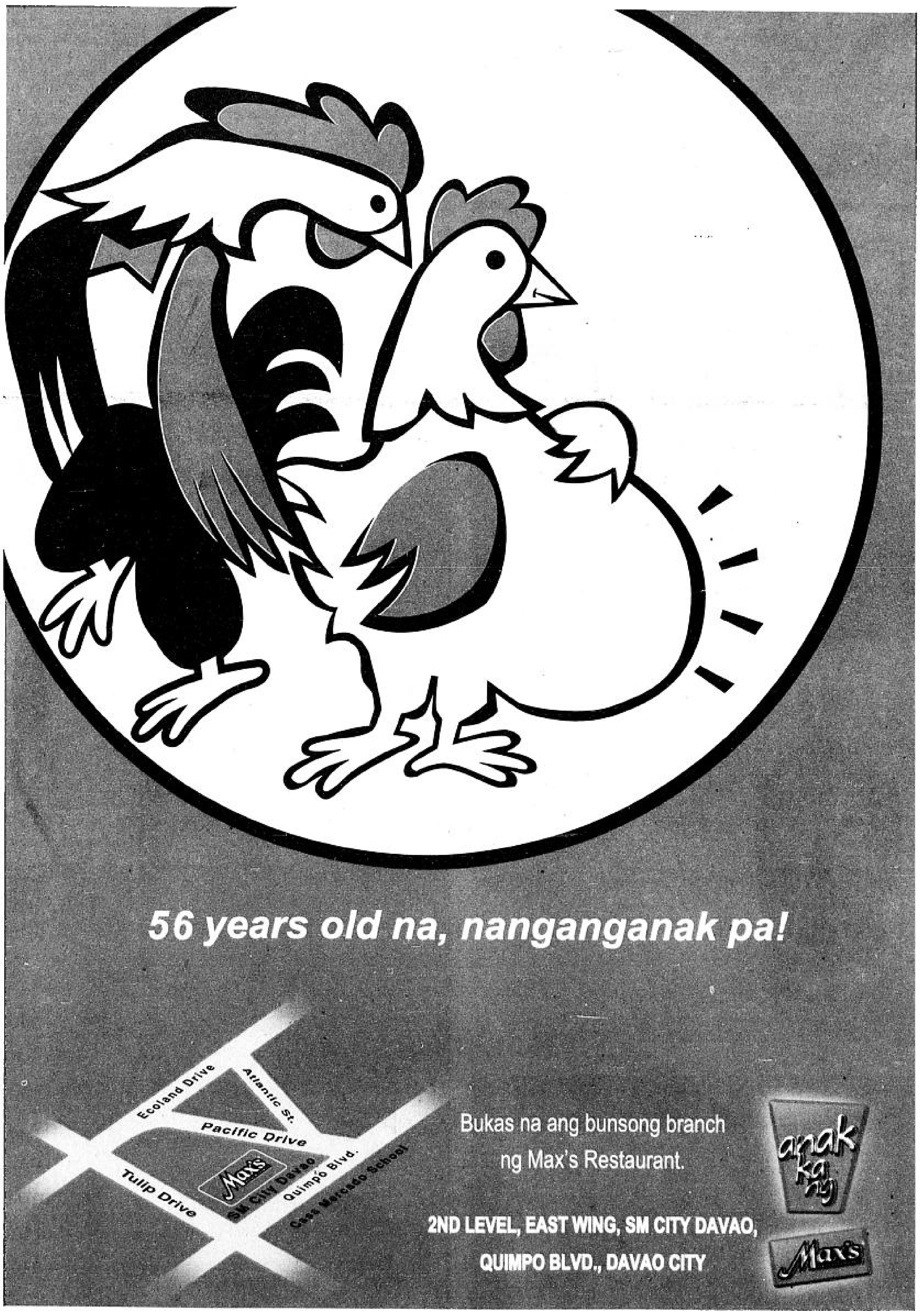
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Warner Bros. presents potential hits for 2002

PITT and Clooney are big-time thieves in 'Ocean's 11.'

GEORGE Clooney robs a casino with a little help from Brat Pitt, Matt Damon and Julia Roberts. Arnold Schwarzenegger raises hell to fight terrorism, while Jim Carrey falls in love and discovers the majesty of life. These are some of the potential hits that Warner Bros. is set to launch next year:

Parole

"Ocean's Eleven." Less than 24 hours into his parole from prison, Danny Ocean (George Clooney) is ready to orchestrate the most sophisticated, elaborate casino heist in history. In one night, Danny's handpicked 11-man crew of specialists—including an ace card sharp (Brad Pitt) and a master pickpocket (Matt Damon)—will attempt to steal over $150 million from three Las Vegas casinos owned by Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia), the elegant, ruthless entrepreneur who just happens to be dating Danny's ex-wife Tess (Julia Roberts). Recent Oscar Best Director winner Steven Soderbergh helms.

"Hearts in Atlantis." Based on the novel by Stephen King, this drama directed by Scott Hicks ("Shine") is about a young orphaned boy who forms a friendship with a middle-aged boarder (Anthony Hopkins), and discovers a kind of magic that he never imagined could exist.

"Collateral Damage." This action-thriller tells the story of family man and firefighter Gordon Brewer (Arnold Schwarzenegger), who is plunged into the complex and dangerous world of international terrorism after he loses his wife and child in a bombing credited to Claudio "The Wolf" Perrini. Frustrated with the official investigation and haunted by the thought that the man responsible for murdering his family might never be brought to justice, Brewer takes matters into his own hands and travels to Columbia to track down the terrorist.

Two races

"The Time Machine." Alexander Hartdegen (Guy Pearce) invents a time machine in the late 1800s that takes him 800,000 years into the future. There he discovers that mankind has evolved into two races: the Eloi and the Morlocks.

"The Majestic." In this Capra-esque drama set during the 1950s blacklist, a young, ambitious Hollywood screenwriter (Jim Carrey) loses his job and his identity, only to find new courage, love and the power of conviction in the heart of a small town's life.

HOPKINS forms a friendship with an orphan in "Hearts in Atlantis."

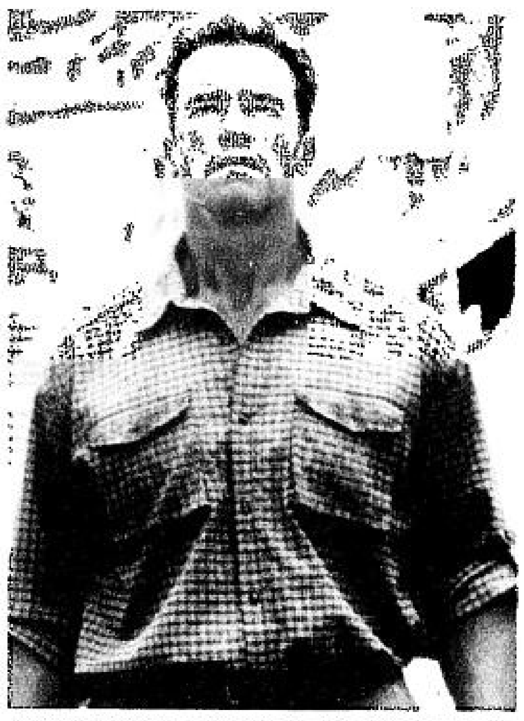
"The Salton Sea." After witnessing the murder of his wife, a man (Val Kilmer) goes undercover to avenge her death.

Sci-fi comedy

"Eight Legged Freaks." In the sci-fi comedy, the residents of a rural mining town discover that an unfortunate chemical spill has caused hundreds of little spiders to mutate overnight to the size of SUVs. And they're hungry. When the alarm is sounded, it is up to engineer Chris McCormack (David Arquette) and Sheriff Sam Parker (Keri Wuhrer) to mobilize an eclectic group of townspeople into battle against the bloodthirsty eight-legged beasts.

"Scooby-Doo." Scooby Doo and the Msytery Inc. gang (Freddie Prinze Jr., Sarah Michelle Gellar and Matthew Lillard) meddle their way into a bona fide mystery that leads them into murky and possibly supernatural waters. Though Scooby's whereabouts are currently unknown, his clever crime-solving cohorts are, as always, on the case.

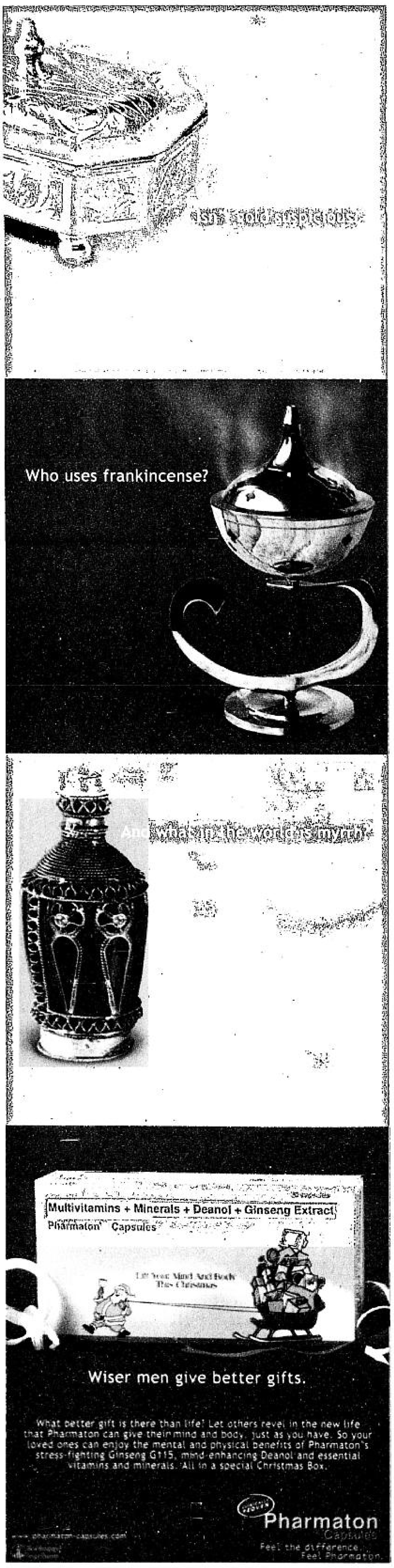
"The Queen of the Damned." An adaptation of Anne Rice's best-selling novel (and third in the "Vampire Chronicles" series), the supernatural adventure follows the legendary vampire Lestat (Stuart Townsend), who reinvents himself as a rock star in the contemporary American music scene. His music wakes Akasha (Aaliyah), the queen of all vampires, whose malevolent power is so great that all the immortal vampires must stand against her if they hope to survive. As Lestat's music inspires Akasha to make him her king, Jesse (Marguerite Moreau), a young woman with a fascination for the dark side, falls in love with Lestat.



ARNIE takes matters into his own hands in "Collateral Damage."

Animated feature

"Powerpuff Girls." This animated feature depicts the adventures of three little girls who were created by Professor Utonium when he accidentally used "Chemical X" in his attempt to make three perfect little girls. Now, powered by high-energy, super-strength, flight, heat vision, and kung fu, Blossom (the redhead), Bubbles (the blonde), and Buttercup (the brunette) fight bad guts, monsters, etc. in defense of their hometown, Townsville.



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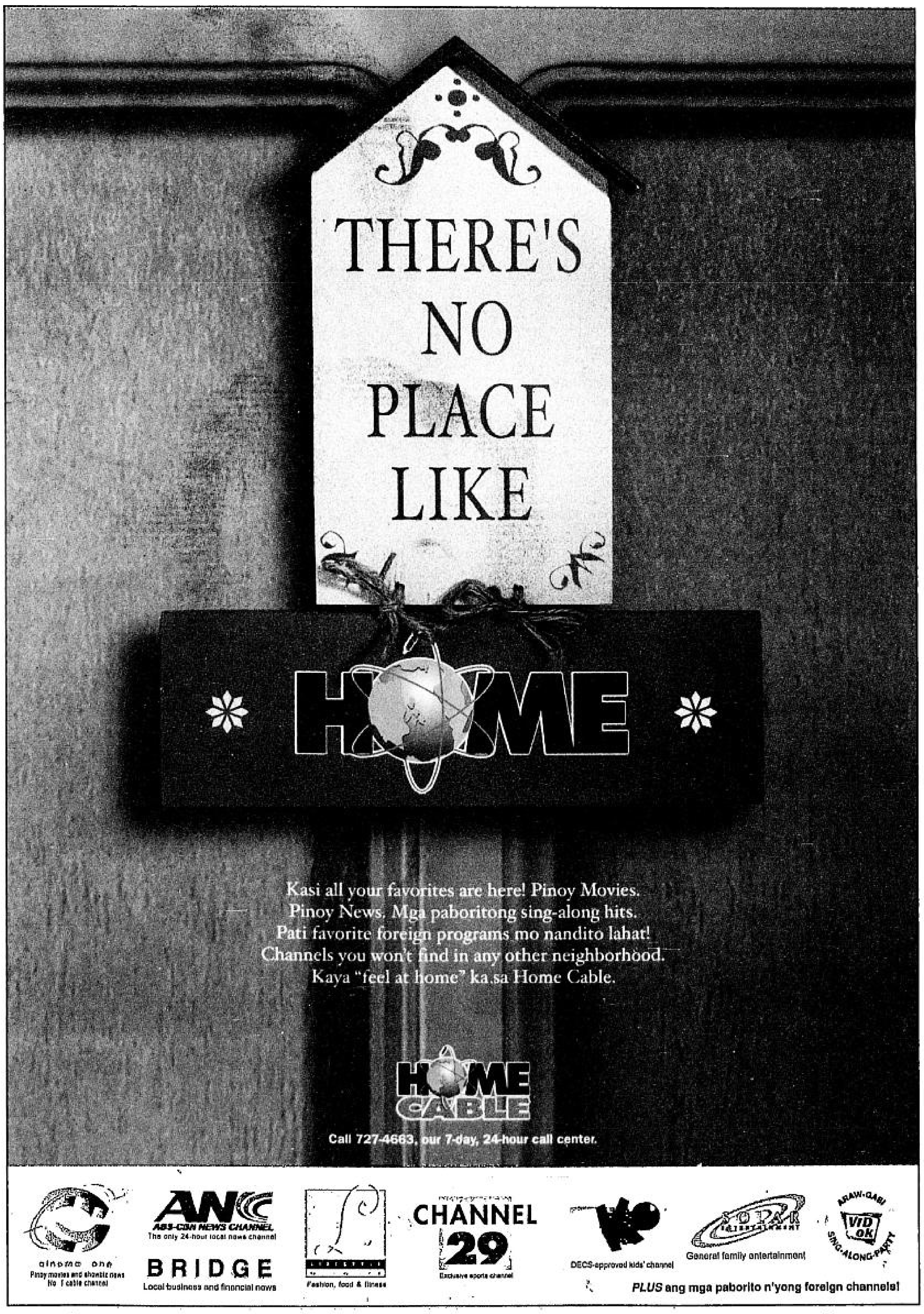

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How 'American Adobo' was shot in the States

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Continuation)

"AMERICAN Adobo" started shooting on Oct. 2 last year in New York City. Director Laurice Guillen recalls that an early problem was refocusing and shortening Vince Nebrida's script, which could have otherwise resulted in a movie that was three and a half hour long!

GUILLEN. Less is better.

Challenge

She finally convinced Nebrida that less was better. Next came the challenge of filming with a New York crew and its no-nonsense, work-work-work-way of doing things. She strove to master her material so well that, as shooting proceeded apace, she wouldn't even need to look at the script.

She also instructed Ricky Davao and the other actors who flew to New York from Manila to appear in the film to memorize all of their lines before shooting started.

They shot for only 12 hours each day, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.—unlike film work in the Philippines, which can go on and on and *on*, exhausting both cast and crew and affecting the quality of their work.

What's "American Adobo" like? It's director informs us, "It's not a travelogue. You don't really see the scenic spots of New York, but you *feel* the city's essence. There's a lot of *kuwentuhan* about the lives and longings of Filipino expatriates in the States."

Visual highlight

A visual highlight of the film is a scene which was shot on Queensboro Bridge. Guillen proudly states that it was the first tracking shot allowed to be filmed on the historic bridge, except for the Julia Roberts starrer, "Conspiracy Theory."

The authorities had to close one lane of the bridge for the shoot. It had turned really cold by October, so the Pinoys from tropical Manila had their work cut out for them keeping warm.

Unlike Filipino productions that shoot on the sly abroad, "American Adobo" had all the requisite permits and technical support it needed. They had an NYPD escort, and a camera platform to which they were properly harnessed while shooting the actors in the travelling car.

Competence

The crew was impressed with the competence of Manila "imports" Ricky Davao and Christopher de Leon, and asked if they were popular in the Philippines. Of course, the Manila delegation took advantage of the opportunity to brag a little, and described Boyet and Ricky as "the Robert de Niro and Tom Hanks of the Philippines" (!).

Executive producer Kevin Fox was very happy about how the movie was turning out, and other sources inform us that the US film people were similarly impressed by director Guillen's competence and work ethic.

For her part, Guillen says she learned a lot from Fox, especially when it came to creative editing. Even when they thought they lacked adequate coverage in terms of shots for a particular scene, he had the knack for finding footage from other scenes that could be used in the sequence that was being edited.

Good working relationship

In time, too, she developed a good working relationship with scriptwriter Nebrida, who was initially too "protective" about his "baby." After trust between them has been established, she convinced him to "let go—so I can give your script a life. After all, a movie is more than the written word."

The final word on the film's Philippine playdate is that it has been pushed back to January 2002, to coincide with its release in the Unites States.

(To be concluded)

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Memorable meal in Vancouver

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VANCOUVER, CANADA—When the British turned Hong Kong over to China in 1996, many residents of the colony searched for other places in the world to move. Uncertain of Hong Kong's future, many migrated to Vancouver in Canada. It is for this reason that the Chinese cuisine here is at par to that of Hong Kong's.

Trial and error

This place is flooded with Chinese restaurants with various kinds of cooking. You have Fookien, Cantonese, Chiu Chow, Noodle houses, Dimsum places and many others. Problem is, if you rely on trial and error, not only will you end up with a hole in your pocket, but you will also get "*bangungot*" in the process.

So, I asked around and turned to the net to search for what the food critics were recommending. Everyone's first choice was a place called Sun Sui Wah seafood restaurant, so, that's where we went.

The place specializes in deep-fried squab chicken. We were going to try it but the parading carts of dimsum were just too tempting to pass up. Some of the dishes we tried that were quite unusual were: Crispy fried tiny fish, slightly salty, crunchy and spicy. These were similar to the ones we find only in Bicol. Delicious!

Chicken knee, or "*tuhod ng manok.*" They were nice and tender (*siguro pinaluhod muna*), coated with a batter and deep-fried. With a little sweet and sour sauce, it is also one of the best sellers of the place. Hard to imagine but really good!

Their Machang was also a winner— sticky rice with ground pork and red egg.

Others that we felt were exceptional were the congee with century egg, sticky beef and crispy Chinese donut. The pork siomai is also worth trying.

Exceptional

We sampled two kinds of fried rice. The fried rice with dried scallops and egg white and the salted fish fried rice are common fare in any Chinese restaurant, but their versions were exceptional.

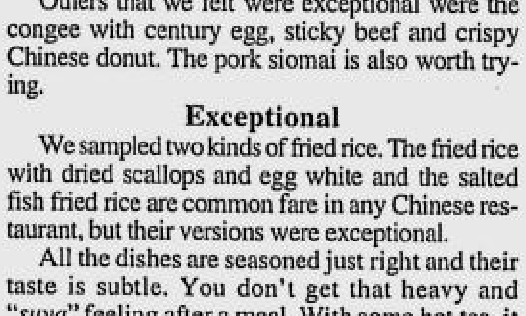
All the dishes are seasoned just right and their taste is subtle. You don't get that heavy and "*suya*" feeling after a meal. With some hot tea, it was a great meal.

For dessert, we had an orange custard with *saglets* (small *sago*). In the middle were some sweet mashed black beans. Also delicious!

This was a most memorable meal. Since then, we have gone back twice. The food is consistently good, the sign of a quality restaurant. I believe they have a branch in Hong Kong that has been open for decades.

So, if by some chance you happen to come to Vancouver, try the best Chinese dimsum restaurant this side of Canada. Happy eating!

Comments: sandydaza@hotmail.com



ADEVOSO SWORN IN

Jesus Terry "Jerry" Ferrer Adevoso (right) was sworn in by Press Secretary Noel Cabrera as Executive Director of the Presidential Broadcast Staff-Radio/TV Malacañang last Oct. 24.

In attendance during the oath-taking at Malacañang were Usec Ching Suva, Jenna Crystal Adevoso, Mimi Orara, Nerissa Ferrer-de Veyra, Trinidad Adevoso-Terso, Ricardo B. De Veyra, Marcelitos Ferrer Santos, Elaine F. Capco, Herbert and Hubert Ferrer.

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Lucky Senders can win up to P60,000.

1. Lucky Senders are entries without photos attached, and are eligible only for the 3 bimonthly draws of P20,000 each. Write your name, address, phone nos., and signature on any of the above-mentioned HDP proofs of purchase. Mail entries to the same address.
2. Non-winning Image Model and Lucky Searcher entries are also qualified for the draws. So send as many entries as you can!

* *Entries must be received at least 5 days before the screening/draw dates: (1st) Jan. 16, 2002, (2nd) Mar. 18, 2002; (3rd) May 16, 2002*

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Pre-screening for qualifiers:
All entries received will be screened by client, agency, and DTI rep. every 2 mos. The bimonthly Lucky Sender winner will be drawn from the Lucky Sender and non-winning Image Model/ Lucky Searcher entries.

Criteria for pre-screening:
Photogenic quality and image projection - 50%
Beauty (*For males: Appeal*) - 50%
Must possess a beautiful (or handsome) face with clear complexion.

Selection of Finalists:
Only 10 final candidates (5 males, 5 females) who meet the cut-off score of 85% will be chosen for the final judging.

Final Image Model candidates and their Lucky Searchers (if any) will be notified by registered mail. They must confirm their participation on or before May 24, 2002.

The Lucky Searchers will have to show their registered mail and present a valid ID on the screening date.

Final Screening:
The 10 official candidates will undergo VTR and photo sessions on May 31, 2002 at Horizon Edsa Hotel. Judges will determine the official HDP Image Models.

Criteria for final screening:
Personality - 50%
Beauty (Appeal for Males) - 40%
Talent - 10%

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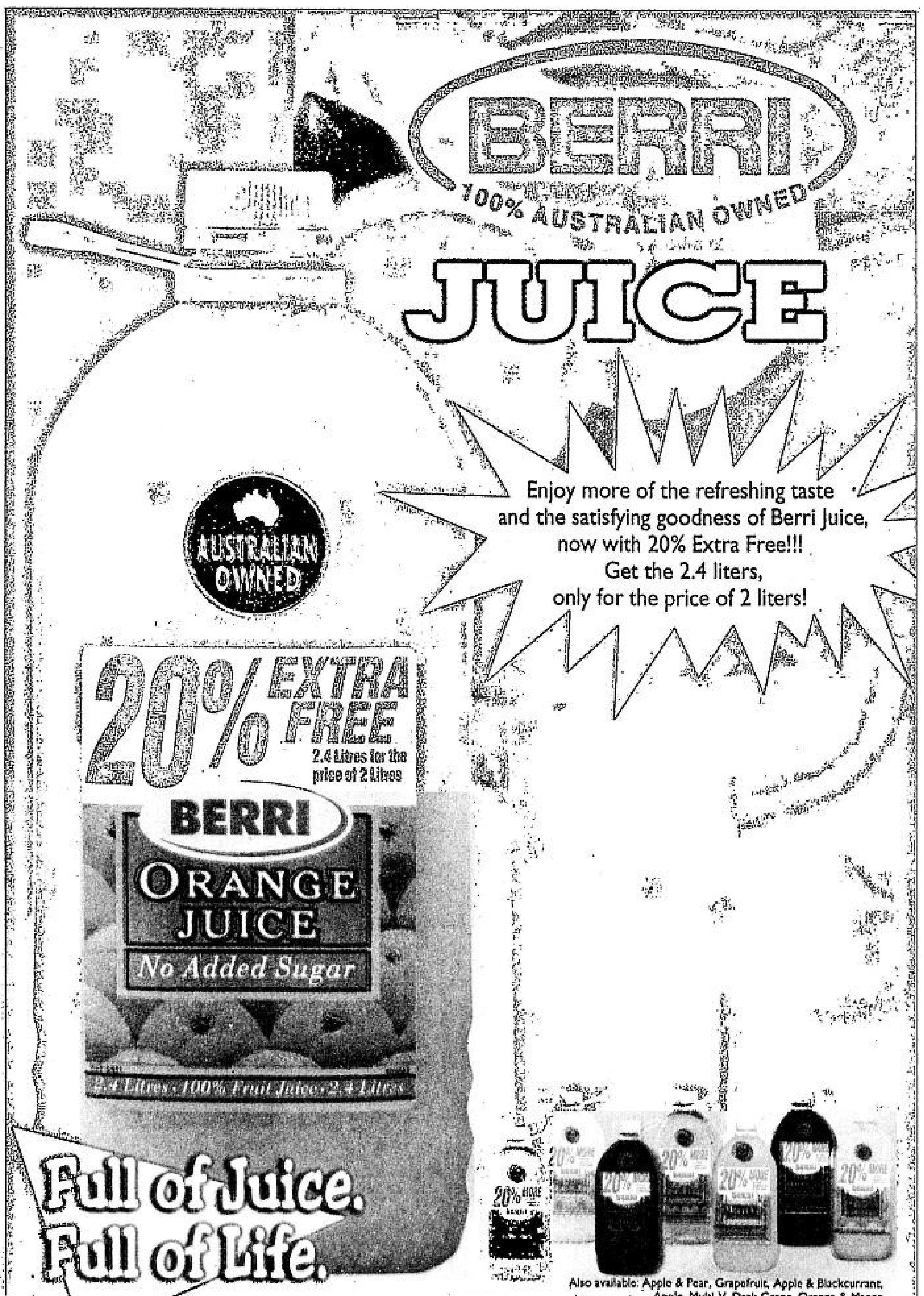

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ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Movie awards groups described and evaluated

By Leia Torre

WHERE there is a flourishing movie industry, there are award-giving bodies that evaluate its products. Awards encourage the movie industry to produce better movies but, as Michael Gebert's book "The Encyclopedia of Movie Awards" reveals, some of them did not start out performing their current functions.

Brainchild

The Academy Awards, more popularly known as the Oscars, are given out by the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. This organization, the brainchild of MGM's Louis Mayer, was originally conceived as a company-controlled union and social club.

In the early years, the awards were just a sideline and the winners were not even kept secret before the ceremony. It was only in 1931 that the practice of not announcing the winners until the ceremony itself was initiated.

The Golden Globes, founded in 1943, is believed by some to be the brassier version of the Academy Awards. These awards were created by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, and they tend to follow the Academy Awards in major categories. The primary difference is that, since the association is composed primarily of journalists, they are primarily interested in stars, and thus give twice as many acting awards.

In 1948, another body, the Directors Guild of America, created its own awards. Its main category, for best director, is seen as far and away the most reliable predictor of success during Oscar night. The guild began giving awards on a quarterly basis, but started following the Oscar calendar in 1951, giving their awards once a year.

The Screen Actors Guild, which has existed even longer than the Directors Guild, launched its own awards show only in 1994. Back in the 1930s, the guild gave monthly acting awards, and they have given Life Achievement Awards since 1962. It is hoped that the guild's trophy, which has been dubbed "The Actor," will be given a better nickname.

Cachet

The New York Film Critics Circle, the oldest major critics' group, began in the mid-1930s as an effort by New York reviewers to influence and uplift Hollywood's output by promoting more artistic and socially relevant films. It was in fact often perceived as being the corrective "conscience" of the Academy Awards, and it had a cachet only second to the Oscars'.

The group was launched in late 1953 amid controversy over whether magazine critics as well as newspaper reviewers should be eligible for membership. These awards do not have much influence over the Oscars; however, they can help smaller films get the public's and the Academy's notice.

As a result, more often than not these awards are given not based on the aesthetic quality of the film but because they will help a particularly worthy film in the marketplace.

The National Society of Film Critics was formed in 1966 by a group of writers who were fed up with the traditional middlebrow quality represented by the newspaper reviewers' New York Film Critics Circle. This group was composed mostly of higher-browed, magazine-based critics.

It has turned out to be a more raucous and provocative group, often snubbing American films in favor of worthier foreign films. The group was formerly New York-based, and only began recruiting members from other areas in 1972.

Youngest

Of the three big critics' groups, the Los Angeles Film Critics Association is the youngest and the least-known. It is also the group with the least restrictive membership criteria. Nevertheless, it has evolved into the most influential of the critics' groups and it is the group that has the strongest influence on the Oscars, aside from the Golden Globes.

Another organization, the National Board of Review, goes back further in film history than Hollywood itself. This Manhattan-based group is best known today as the publisher of the magazine "Films in Review," but it started out in 1909 as the National Board of Censorship of Motion Pictures in New York City, the first center of the film industry.

The board eventually evolved into a cinematic cultural organization whose function was to promote both better Hollywood movies and an awareness of European films. The board announces its prizes in December, and awards them in New York in February or early March. (*To be concluded*)

Cyril Lorenzana gets his feet wet in local movies

By Bibsy Carballo

THERE is a new player in the movies, getting his baptism of fire, and while the more responsible members of the community are hoping he will make it, the usual negative elements are trying to pull him down. They haven't even seen his first film and already they are eager to crucify him!

Independent filmmaker

Cyril Lorenzana paid his dues for 10 years in California, USA, starting out as a gofer and production assistant in the special effects company that did "Star Wars," and eventually working his way up as independent filmmaker.

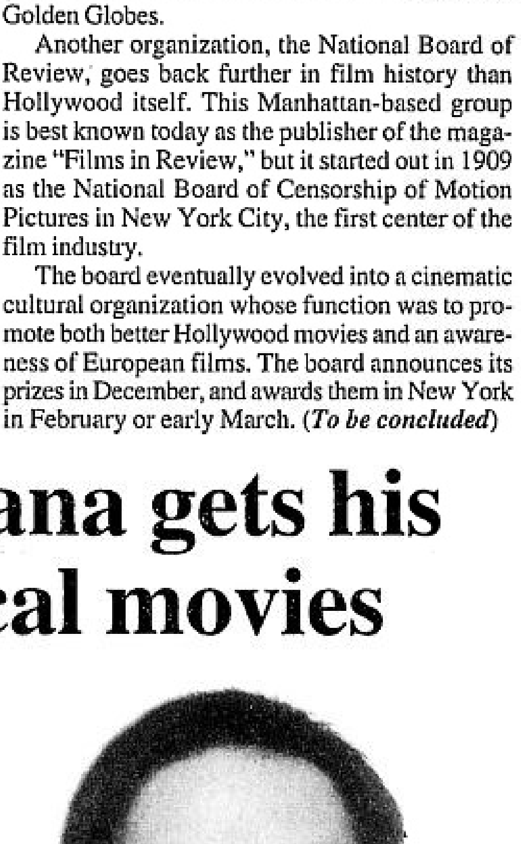
Like many who have gone through the arduous and rigorous experience of working in America, most especially in the film industry, Cyril is confident. This confidence translates itself into an aura that locals deem to be *mayabang, bilib sa sarili.* And this, of course, is a no-no to the local film citizenry. You don't tell us what to do, you don't tell us you're better than us!

Meeting him for the first time with Raymond Bagatsing and Lara Fabregas was a wild experience. Raymond who is the only big star in Cy's movie on con artists, "Kamo," obviously enjoyed Cy's company and vice versa, and they shared their dreams and frustrations.

Misadventures

They spent the evening reminiscing about some of the film's misadventures. Since Cy is a stickler

CYRIL/p.E6



LORENZANA. Paid his dues for 10 years in the States.

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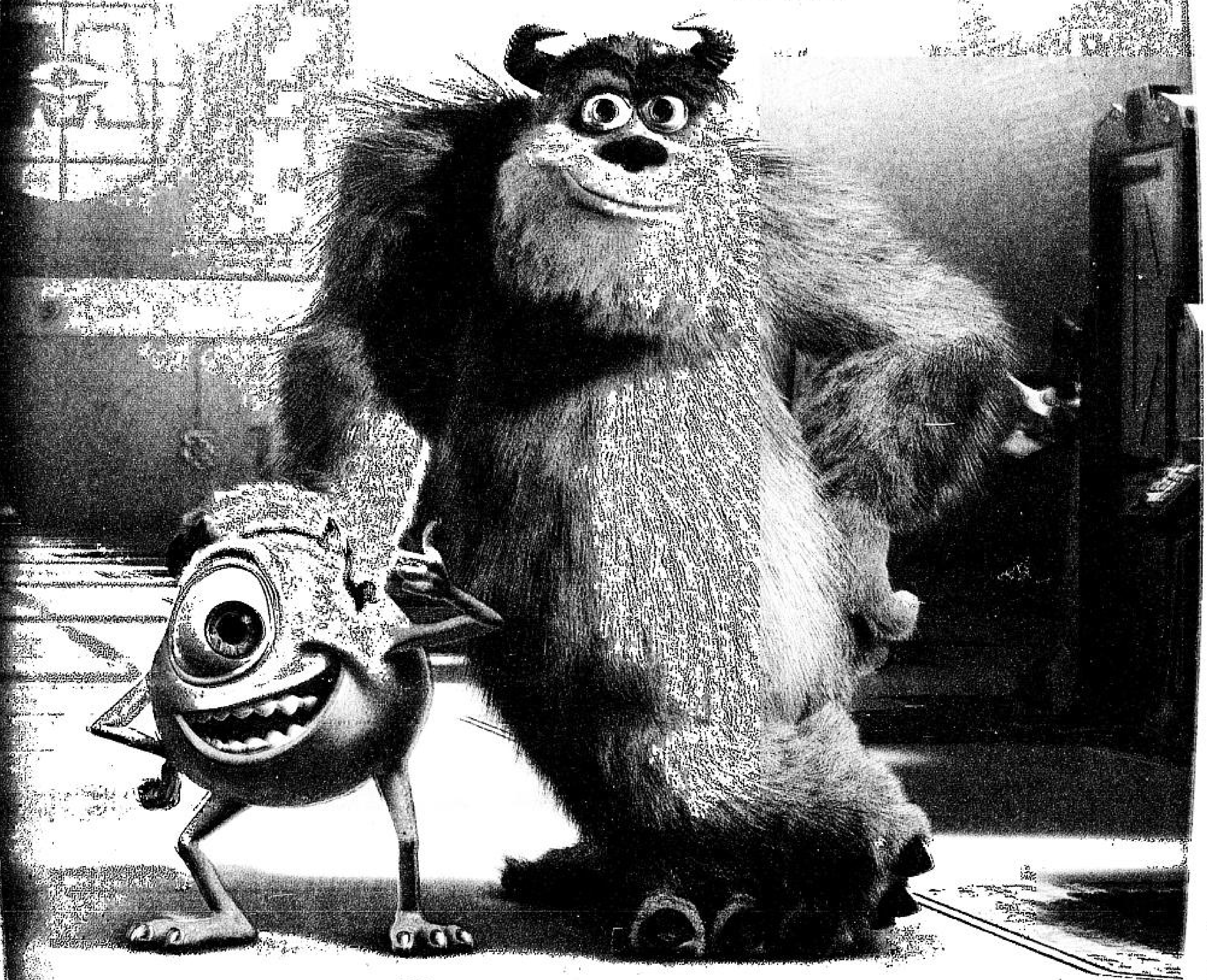

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Film tackles family breakup

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—John Travolta has made some—let's be polite and call them questionable—choices in roles in the past year or so. Anyone who's seen "Swordfish," "Lucky Numbers" or "Battlefield Earth"—the last one making pretty much every list of the 10 worst movies of last year, if not of all time - can agree on that.

Better choice

But Travolta made a better choice with "Domestic Disturbance," and he's good in it—at least for the first half, until the entire movie turns ridiculous and drags him along with it.

Unlike the sneering, scheming characters he played in those earlier bombs, Travolta stars as a guy in the middle of his life who's sad and lonely, and he does it seemingly effortlessly.

Frank Morrison regrets the mistakes he made as a husband, as a father. He's not terribly successful in his business, carrying on the family tradition of building wooden boats; there's not much demand for them anymore, with plastic boats being cheaper.

Rich newcomer

But he gets along with his ex-wife, Susan (Teri Polo), and remains close to their 12-year-old son, Danny (Matt O'Leary). And when Susan gets remarried to Rick Barnes (Vince Vaughn), a rich newcomer to the small, coastal Maryland town where they live, he tries to be supportive. He even attends their gala backyard wedding with his girlfriend (Susan Floyd).

For the first half of the movie, Lewis Colick's screenplay accurately captures the kind of pain and awkwardness families go through as they break apart and take new forms.

But then an old friend of Rick's named Ray (Steve Buscemi) comes to town who's a little shady and has a sketchy connection to Rick's past.

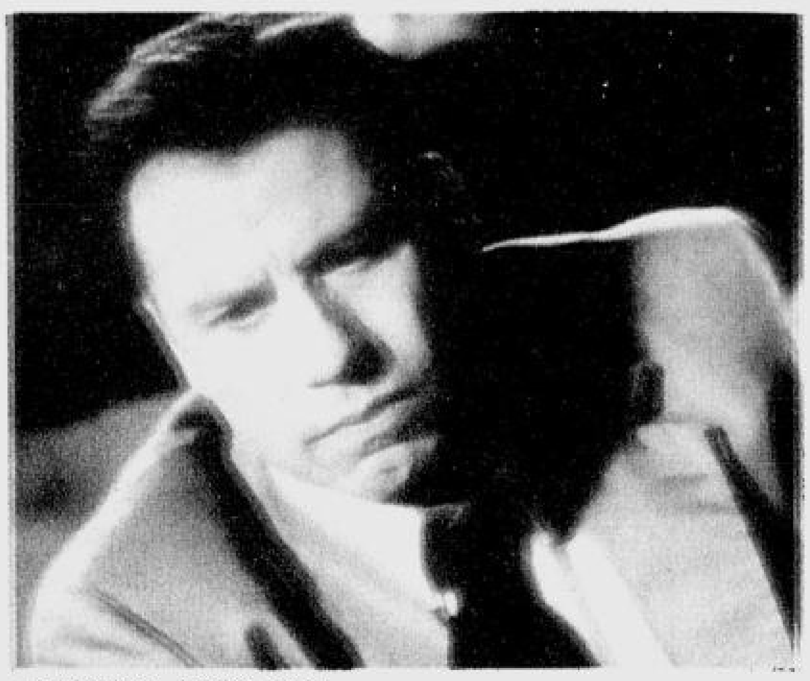
Abusive side

Danny starts seeing Rick's aggressive, abusive side when no one else is around, and tries to tell his parents about it, but they don't believe him because he's lied and gotten into trouble in the past.

So when Danny tells his parents he saw Rick kill Ray and incinerate his body at the brick factory he owns, naturally, his parents don't believe him.

The anticlimactic showdown is a fistfight that just happens to take place in a garage where there's a minor arsenal of makeshift weapons, including a shovel, a crow bar and a bar stool.

While filming in Wilmington, North Carolina, Vaughn and Buscemi got into a barroom brawl with some of the locals. Buscemi was stabbed in the throat, head and arm, but recovered. Vaughn and a couple of other guys ended up in jail on misdemeanor assault charges. *AP*


TRAVOLTA. Midlife crisis.

Artwork, writings aim to help soothe emotions about Sept. 11 attacks

By Lisa Lipman

BOSTON—Ludvic Saleh was in his studio in South Brunswick, New Jersey, working on an abstract painting of water lilies when he heard that two planes had crashed into the World Trade Center.

Anger

Saleh, a Christian Egyptian and an American citizen, was overcome with emotions. For three days, he couldn't sleep. He couldn't focus. He seethed with anger, and he couldn't stop thinking about the terrorists.

Then he turned to his art.

"I started to make a wood sculpture, but I couldn't get the wood to do what I wanted," said Saleh, who has had exhibits in New York City, Canada, the Netherlands, France and Belgium. "So I started painting canvas after canvas after canvas."

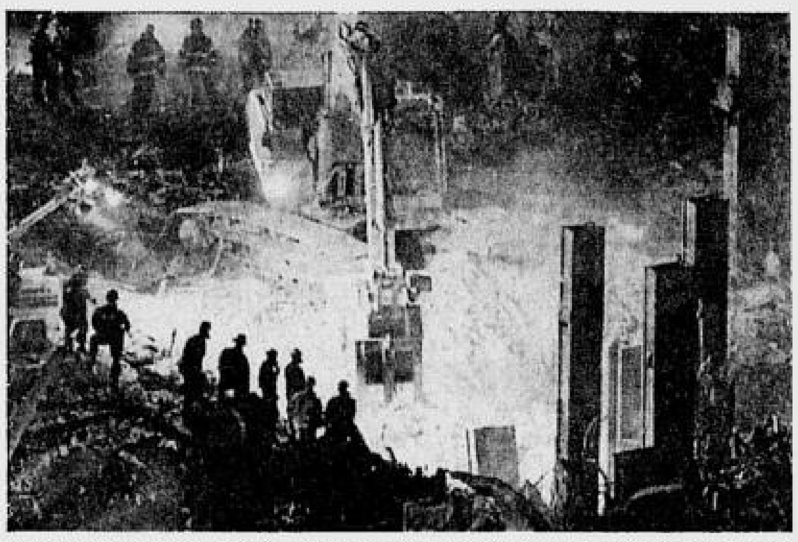
Since Sept. 11, artists across the country have been using their art to heal themselves and to help heal those who come to see it. For many, it is the best way to deal with depression, frustration and fear.

"I'm still working and working," Saleh said. "It's been cathartic. It's a way of releasing my energy and anger."

Artwork and events focusing on the attacks are already up and running.

Los Angeles-based Poets for Peace has scheduled a series of poetry readings that will be both a creative catharsis and a fund-raiser for the victims.

Artist Mark Del Guidice, of Norwood, Massachusetts, was so affected by the tragedy that he altered a commissioned sculpture for Boston's Forest Hills Cemetery - where poet e.e. cummings and television star Gracie Allen are buried —"to reflect the terror we all experienced."


RESCUE workers continue to dig for victims' bodies at the site of the World Trade Center in New York.

Hieroglyphics

The sculpture, "Moments Eternal," consists of a mahogany bench and four stools covered with hieroglyphics. Guidice changed the hieroglyphics from ones that had to do with nature to ones that had to do with sorrow.

In New York City, a SoHo storefront has been turned into a gallery for "Here Is New York: A Democracy of Photographs." The exhibit contains images taken by professional photographers, ordinary people, students, even people who were in or near the World Trade Center when the planes crashed into it.

"It's about what has already happened, and about what will happen," said Michael Shulan, one of the four founders of the exhibit. "And what has happened is not yet explainable with words. Looking at these works ... clearly they perform a healing function. People are moved, even though these are not easy things to look at."

There are about 1,500 images in the exhibit, though not all are displayed. Sales of copies of the images raised more than $30,000 for the Children's Aid Society 911 Fund in just five days.

Some artists altered old works to reflect the tragedies.

In San Luis Obispo, California, photographer Denise De Luise took a photo of the World Trade Center she had taken years ago, framed it and wrote on the glass: "We are one world, one people, one heart, one voice, one pain, one anger, one fear, one hope, one despair, one joy, one peace, one hate, one love, one God ... one."

Own picture

Guy Parneix, an artist from Knoxville, Tennessee, happened to be in New York on Sept. 11 and took his own picture of the burning buildings. He and artist Dennis Waldron superimposed the photo behind a picture of a crying eagle, and titled it "America Cries."

"Guy was a former firefighter, so this really affected him," said Wendy Loveless, who is making the prints and helping the artists sell the work.

The McMullen Museum of Art at Boston College has taken a different approach to dealing with the attacks. An exhibit called "Hope Photographs" provides a look at the joyous aspects of life. The hallway leading to the exhibit is filled with photographs of Boston College students at the prayer vigils held after the Sept. 11 attacks. Interspersed among the photographs are excerpts from faculty-authored essays about the triumph of hope over tragedy.

Butterfly

The exhibit itself, which contains more than 100 photographs, features inspirational images such as a butterfly resting on the toes of a man as he lounges on the shore of a river, and a photo of a police officer playing with children on a city street.

The show was planned before Sept. 11, but Nancy Netzer, the museum's director, added the hallway exhibition after she realized the impact the show would have.

"It's a wonderful exhibition in its own right, and it fits in with the teaching mission of a Jesuit college," said Nancy Netzer, the museum's director. "But I think there's no doubt that people come to it with different expectations now, and the works themselves take on a different meaning." *AP*

Cyril Lorenzana . . . (From page E4)

for budget, he adapted techniques for saving footage and cutting time. It involved jump-cuts where the actor had to deliver lines within a sequence depending on the camera setup, and out of sequence. This meant that the actor had to shift emotions without any buildup, no mean trick even for the best actors.

Cy also instituted a system of fines on the actors, exactly P14,500 for each hour they were late. "This is because that is what it would cost me per hour," he explains. Happily, he says, no one was ever late!

Many of his ideas are not new.

He works on a tight production schedule, his contracts stipulating 14 shooting days out of 26 days. He believes in a long pre-production period because this is where one can effectively implement savings. He works with live sound and his movie has surround-sound quality. He storyboards his script shot by shot and budgets a maximum of 30,000 feet for film stock.

Lack of trust

He offered profit sharing, back-end deals and ownership of the film to the lead actors as another means to reduce cash outlays. "Where the idea failed is because of lack of trust. If actors and producers can get beyond the mistrust factor, then it would be possible to implement these tools."

Cyril believes that there is only one local film market, the *masa*. If the A and B crowd happen to watch a local film, then that's gravy, he opines.

Still, his films, budgeted at P3-P5 million, can't really lose all that much, given cable and video deals. He looks towards marketing his films abroad, utilizing film festivals as an effective gateway to develop film awareness among foreign players.

Already, "Kamo" participated in the recent San Diego Film Festival where "American Adobo" showed, and "Azucena" won Best Picture. He is looking towards participating in San Francisco, Telluride, and Sundance, where his film will bear the English title "Daisy Chain."

When he returned to the Philippines two years ago, Cy brought with him experiences as assistant director, production manager, location manager and producer on various independent films with Barstow Productions, Andreas Films, Underground Films, Mascara Films, Pacific Shore, and Perea Films.

He then put up Pipe Dream Pictures with his brothers Lito, Monico and Noel and produced, wrote, directed and edited "The Lennon Conspiracy" in 1997.

Contacts

Why, we ask him, make films in the Philippines when he already had one foot in the US? "Being a minority filmmaker, it would have taken me 20 years to be a mainstream director in the US. I haven't abandoned my contacts or my goal of making more movies abroad. I'm just taking the back door route," he explains.

In the Philippines, brother Noel put up First Quality Films with "Kamo" as its first offering. It aims to make non-traditional, commercially-viable movies of good technical and creative quality.

Cyril believes that the most important element in filmmaking is the story. He doesn't think the low budget movie, which others disparagingly call *pito-pito*, is a drawback. "Quality is never about money. It's about *attitude*." In addition, while big-name stars are always an asset, they do not guarantee a hit.

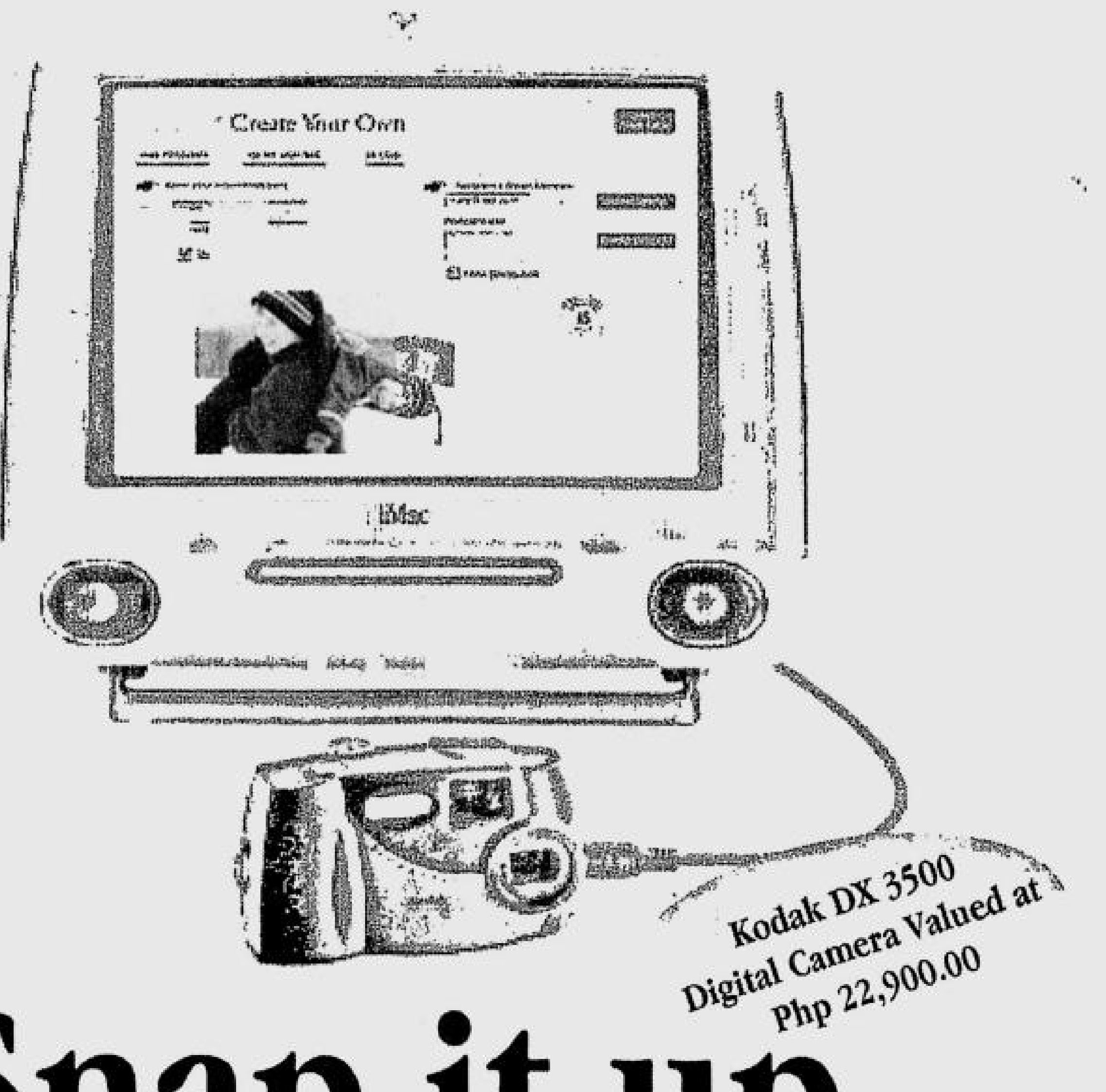
Pipe Dream and First Quality are independent production houses which have identified ethnic films with bigger possibilities of making it abroad. "By ethnic film, we mean a movie that is visually rooted in its country of origin. Added to that, the film must carry a universal theme—films like 'Scent of Green Papaya,' 'Like Water for Chocolate,' 'Jamon, Jamon,' and 'Crouching Tiger' to name just a few."

Unperturbed

Despite the economic situation in Asia and the problems of the local film industry, Cyril remains unperturbed. "I think we need to overhaul our national attitude from being complacent to a survival mode. With the world market economy getting homogenous, we must be aggressive enough to secure a slice in the economic pie big enough for our country to grow. Otherwise the wolves will feast on our resources."

"Local producers must realize that there are markets open out there for Filipino films."

Apple



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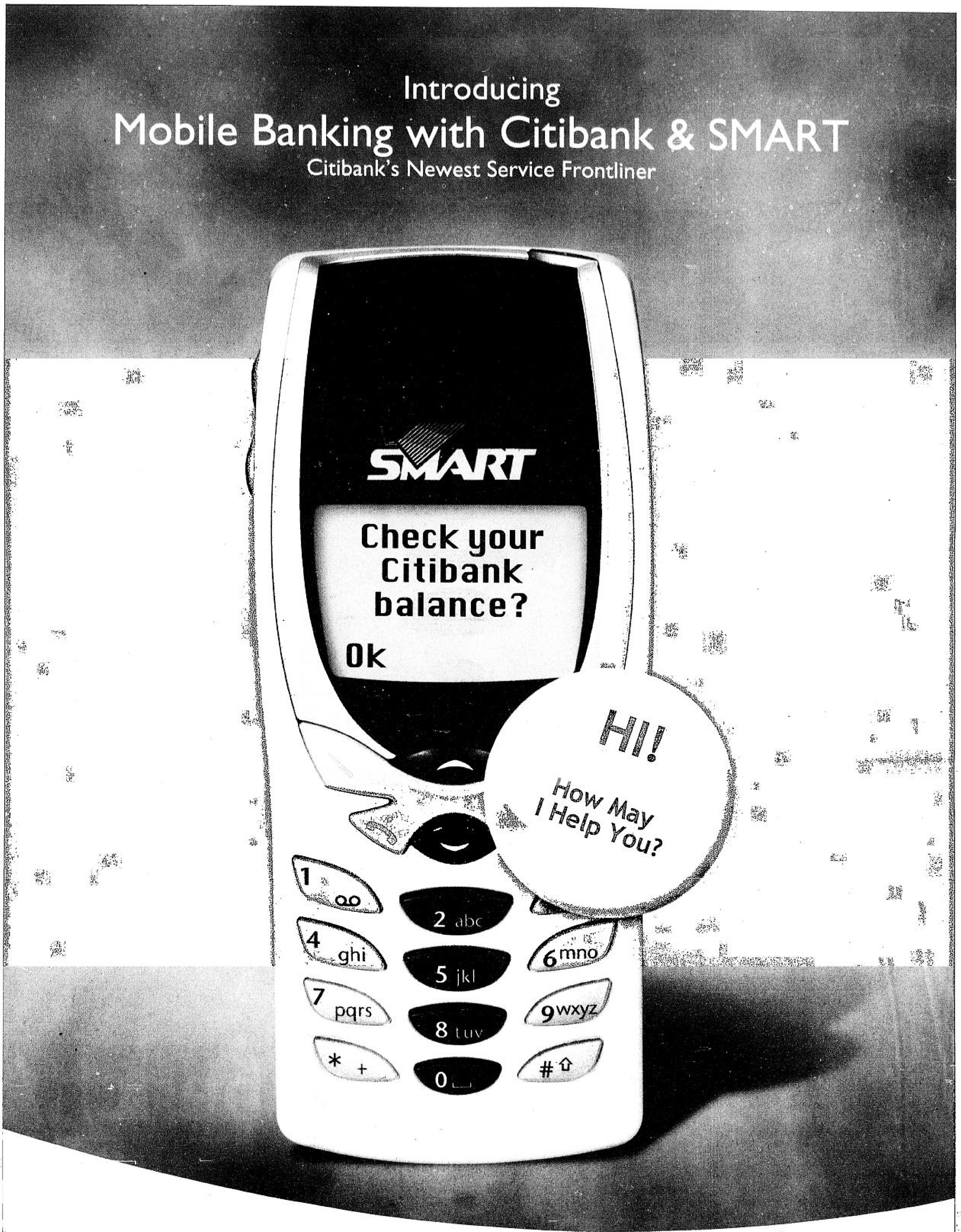

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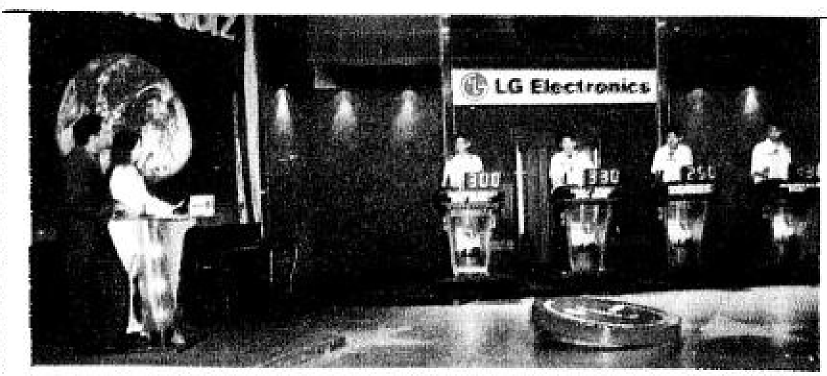


HOSTS and finalists on the show's futuristic set.

THE FOUR FINALISTS. From left, Herrera, Lena, Atienza and Barsana.

Andrew John Lena tops 'LG Digital Quiz Show' finals

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER 52 highly competitive Sundays, 208 contestants and four exciting quarterly square-offs, Channel 7's award-winning show, "LG Digital Quiz Show," picked a champion in its second thrilling Grand Finals last Nov. 11. The winner was Andrew John Lena of Manila Science High School.

Scholarship fund

He won a million-peso-plus college scholarship fund, among other prizes, after beating a tough field of finalists—Bojit Herrera (Philippine Science Special School), Jayjay Atienza (Mary Immaculate Parish Special School), and Jeremane Edward Barsana (Elizabeth Seton School)—all quarterfinals winners in their own right.

The quiz show sponsored by LG Electronics has attracted a big and loyal following among students because it has achieved a dynamic balance between solid scholastics and a youth-friendly style of presentation.

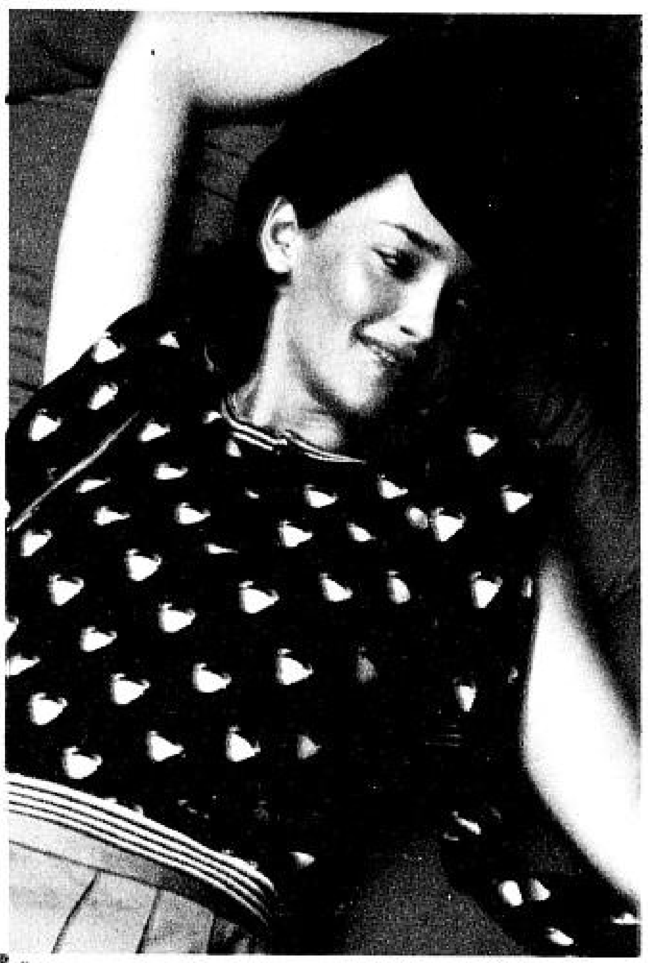
Its innovative style is the product of a lot of planning and work on the part of its director, Pat Perez, producer JB Bautista and headwriter Bong Barrameda (himself IQ-7's champion). The program's hosts, Paolo Bediones and Regine Tolentino, vivify the show's combination of credibility, competence, relative youth and popular appeal.

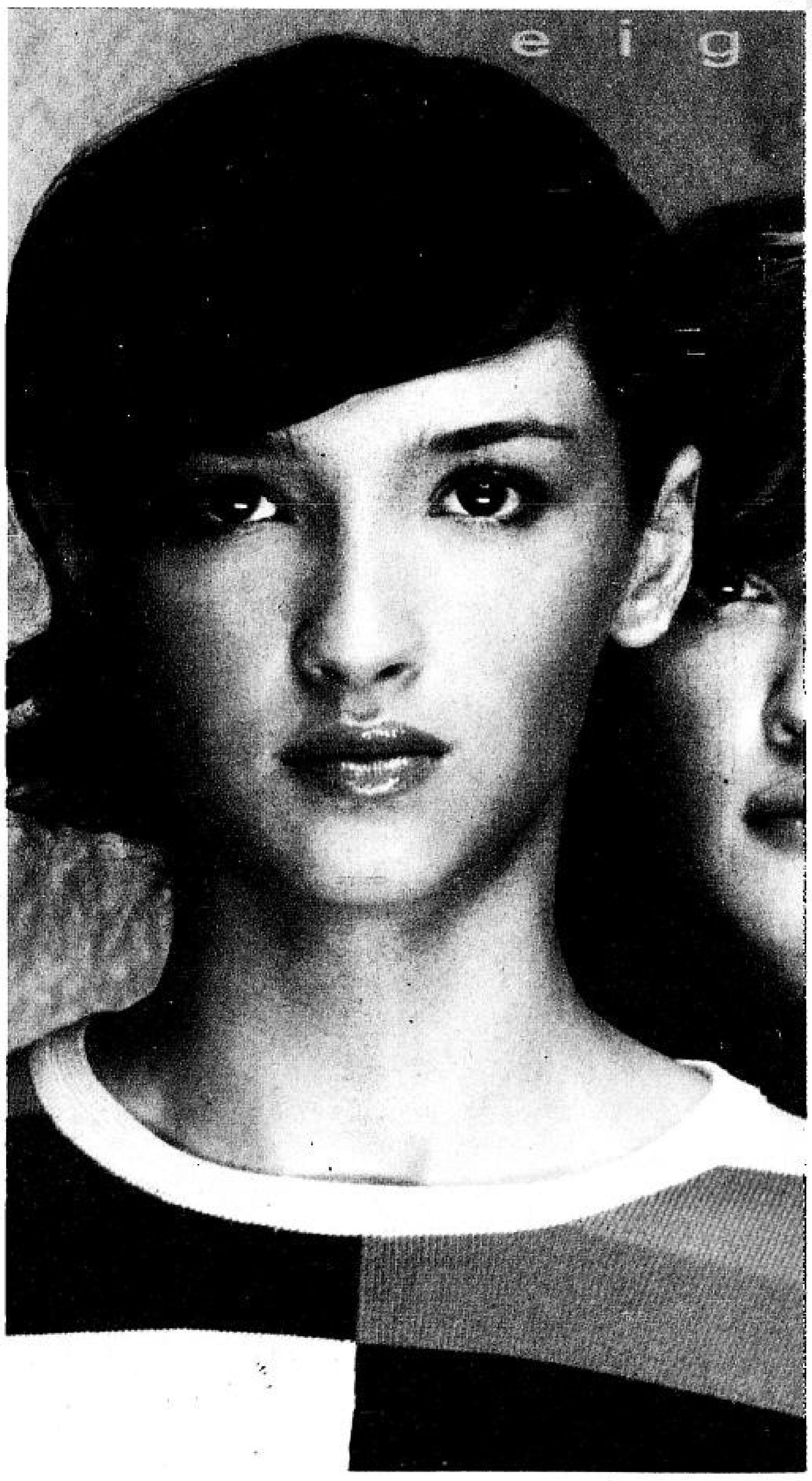
Trophies

The quiz show's uniqueness has been confirmed by its winning the Star Awards for Television's trophies for best game show and

ANDREW/p.F2

HOSTS BEDIONES AND TOLENTINO. Vivify the show's combination of credibility and popular appeal.





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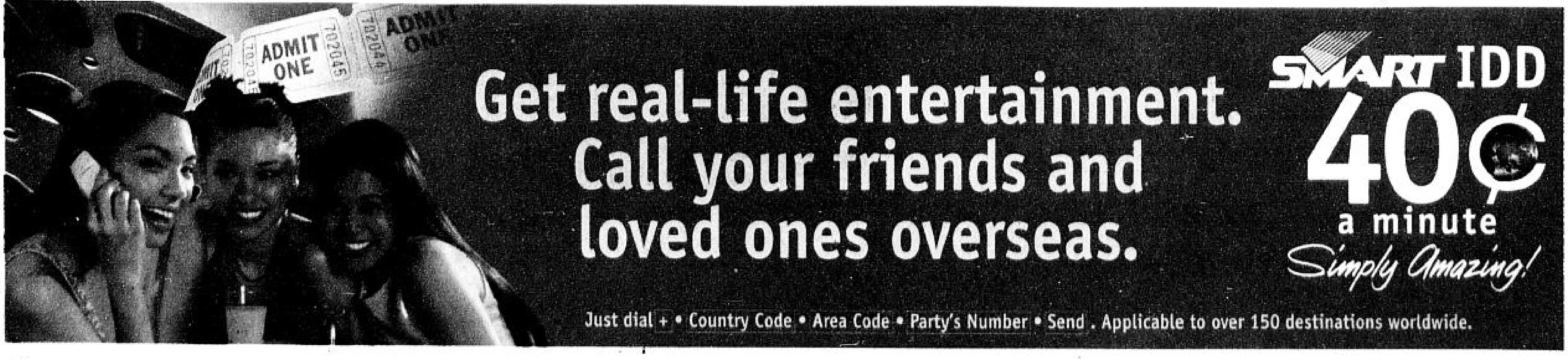
LEVEL 4, RUSTAN'S MAKATI
LEVEL 3, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL
LEVEL 1, AYALA CENTER, CEBU



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'Tape' is an incredibly engrossing film

By Christy Lemire

NEW YORK—It would have been interesting to see "Tape" as the one-act stage play it's based on, with the same actors—Ethan Hawke, Robert Sean Leonard and Uma Thurman—playing the same parts.

Strong performances

The performances are uniformly strong, textured and nuanced. But director Richard Linklater's fondness for excessive edits and swish pans to move between speaking characters is so repetitive, it's nauseating, and it undermines the dialogue's inherent drama.

And yet "Tape" is incredibly engrossing because it is so accessible.

Shot on digital video, the movie takes place in real time as three old high school friends sit in a seedy Michigan motel room and dissect one night 10 years ago, when one of the two men may have date-raped the woman.

It couldn't be more different from Linklater's other movie in theaters now, "Waking Life," a hypnotic, animated series of musings on life, death and dreams. And it provides a sort of voyeuristic thrill of being a fly on a wall as people sort through some of the most intimate details of their pasts.

Stephen Belber's screenplay, adapted from his play, honestly captures some experiences everyone can relate to: the awkwardness of a reunion between friends who were once close but now have little in common; the mind's willingness to recall events selectively; the failure to live up to one's potential.

Volunteer firefighter

Vince (Hawke) is a volunteer firefighter who makes money by dealing pot to aging hippies—one of whom is the fire chief. He's come to Lansing, Michigan, to support his old buddy, John (Leonard), whose first film is screening at the local film festival.

We see Vince in his run-down motel room, preparing for his meeting with John by guzzling warm beers in a tank top and boxer shorts, then crumpling the cans and hurling them across the room.

Then John shows up, conservatively dressed and perfectly composed, and it's all macho, jovial kidding around and catching up.

Tension

But there's clearly a tension between them, and its source doesn't take long to surface.

Vince is still bitter that John hooked up with his ex-girlfriend, Amy, at the end of their senior year, and he's been convinced ever since then that John forced Amy to have sex at a party.

In a haze induced by beer, pot and cocaine, Vince grills John: Did they have sex that night? And how? Exactly how?

Each of them finds that their memories from a decade ago change the more they talk.

John doesn't know that Vince has called Amy (Thurman)—who lives in Lansing and works as an assistant district attorney—and invited her to the motel room. And once she shows up, they can finally get to the truth—or so they think.

Plenty of twists

Belber's script offers plenty of twists and deft verbal sparring. It gets repetitive at times, though, as the characters cover the same territory over and over.

Hawke, Leonard and Thurman are all at their best, and Belber—who co-wrote and appeared in the play "The Laramie Project," inspired by the hate-crime killing of Mathew Shepard—gives them rich material to work with.

The three are old friends in real life and have a natural chemistry; Hawke is married to Thurman and shared the screen with Leonard in 1989's "Dead Poet's Society." Thurman and Leonard both appear in the upcoming "Chelsea Walls," Hawke's directorial debut.

Hawke also appeared in "Waking Life," where he reprised his role from Linklater's 1995 movie "Before Sunrise."

The comfort level they have with each other is evident, and is one of the main reasons "Tape" is worth seeing. *AP*

HAWKE. Working with rich material.

DGPI and academe hold dialogue on future of the film industry

By Veron Dionisio

INSPIRED by what's happening in the burgeoning Korean film industry, initiatives are being undertaken by the Directors' Guild of the Philippines and concerned members of the University of the Philippines' academic community to look deeper into the worsening state of the Filipino film industry.

Recently, the first of a series of dialogues and workshops was held at the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication (UP-CMC) Auditorium, attended by directors Carlitos Siguion Reyna, Joel Lamangan, Mel Chionglo, Joey Romero, Jeffrey Jeturian, Leo Abaya and UP-CMC Dean Prof. Ellen Paglinauan, Dr. Gigi Alfonso, Prof. Armi Santiago, Dr. Teresita Maceda, Ed Piano, Prof. Andy Sevilla, Ms Lyn Pareja and Joven Velasco.

Not new

The problems presented during the discussion were not new anymore. They have been identified in almost every forum about the dying local film industry.

The glaring shortfall of the audience for Filipino films has been identified as the major setback in film productivity and profitability. Producing films is not getting any cheaper and with higher taxes and lack of government support, how can we save the industry from its eventual demise?

Until now, the film industry has yet to professionalize its marketing methodologies. There has never been serious research done on what constitutes film patronage, what characteristics the audience possesses, their behavioral patterns in relation to their preferences in films they watch, etc.

Chionglo affirmed that the industry seems to have this veil of silence when it comes to data or figures about box-office returns. "We once attempted to approach a group of theater owners to give us figures, even general ones, just to know which films really made a killing at the tills. But to no avail," he said.

DIRECTORS and academics exchange views on how to resuscitate a dying industry.

Deeper analysis

Lamangan also asked the academe to conduct a deeper analysis of the film industry as industry. "I hope a study could be made on the prevailing culture in the industry and why and how it has become so powerful. Also an inquiry on what sectors constitute the industry, what are their visions, their goals in relation to their product."

Siguion-Reyna, on the other hand, underscored the role of the government in resuscitating the industry. He reveals that there are bills in the Senate that have been drafted to help the industry.

Lyn Pareja suggested that the industry should really listen now to the audience. "Because I think they know what they want and whether or not these films may not be what we may consider artistically meritorious, it's valid that we consider why they would flock to theaters to watch these films," she said.

This coming together of the people in the industry and the academe is the first in recent years. The group agreed to hold a series of workshops to come up with concrete steps in addressing the problems cited during the dialogue.

Implications

Among the short-term plans: advocacy works that would raise the consciousness of the public regarding the present state of the industry, the significance of helping it and its implications to the economic and cultural landscape in the country.

The government has never taken the film industry seriously. It has not been regarded as a major contributor to GNP, or as a potential investment priority. Be that as it may, these concerned people are bent on putting up a hard fight. If Korea was able to do it, why can't they?

Paglinauan revealed that what Korean film industry is now is a product of a long struggle. "It didn't happen overnight, it took them 10 long years. It was characterized by big rallies, advocacy activities from all fronts: from the academe, to the legislative, from the streets to the executive. Artists, students, the academic communities lobbied in their Congress and the members of the Parliament."

One of the major reforms that have contributed to this success is a government declaration devoting 165 days a year exclusively for local films.

Massive marketing campaigns are handled by the producers themselves, while a portion of the taxes imposed on the industry is used to subsidize the industry itself.

Chionglo stressed: "We need an objective analysis of our problems for us to be able to find solutions to those problems."

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Andrew John Lena tops 'LG Digital Quiz Show' finals

(From page F1)

game show hosts, toppling many bigger game and quiz shows on the tube.

The program's visual identity and appeal are the products of these components: a thematic concept focusing on heavenly bodies as points of destination; digitally generated graphics that are fun to watch; visual support for questions, and a format that moves from lighter to more difficult rounds (for instance, from Picture Puzzle to Megabytes).

This year's four finalists were particularly outstanding: Winner Andrew John Lena topped the show's second quarter by grossing the second highest score in the program's second season. The grand prize winner of the Discovery World Wise Whiz Quiz and a finalist in the Brain Brawl challenge, he wants to become a computer engineer.

> Lena led the field with a combination of intelligence and an ability to think on his feet

Genetic engineer

For his part, Bojit Herrera plays the piano and organ, but also loves rock music. A member of the Society for the Advancement of Research Science, he is bent on becoming either a cardiologist or a genetic engineer.

Jayjay Atienza topped the third quarter by amassing the highest score in the show's second season. He is a good illustrator who's won various awards in Art, loves to cook, and belongs to his school's English and Computer clubs.

Finally, Jeremane Edward Barsana was valedictorian in grade school and a Quiz Bee champion. A math wizard, he wants to become a doctor.

Evenly matched

These four achievers were evenly matched, but Lena topped the field with a combination of intelligence and an ability to think quick on his feet, despite the highly stressed atmosphere of the grand finals.

Lena's victory and big scholarship prize have inspired many students to take their studied seriously and also aim for top honors and prizes in the new season of the "LG Digital Quiz Show."

Working with Kidman was amazing, 'Others' co-star says

By Raffaella Malaguti

KIDMAN. Dedicated and disciplined.

VENICE—Working with Nicole Kidman in the gothic ghost tale "The Others" was an amazing experience, Kidman's co-protagonist in the film Fionnula Flanagan said on Sunday.

Housekeeper

In the movie, directed by Alejandro Amenabar, Flanagan plays a housekeeper who helps Kidman's character, Grace, and her children, discover a terrible and yet liberating truth.

"It was an amazing experience working with Amenabar and Nicole because of the subject matter and because we fed a lot off each other's ideas," Flanagan told Reuters Television in an interview on the elegant terrace of a Venice hotel.

"The Others" is vying for the Golden Lion award at the lagoon city's film festival, where Kidman has been the unrivalled star. Kidman arrived in Venice with 22 suitcases and a private jet earlier this week, sending the paparazzi wild.

"She is very dedicated and very disciplined. She offers a performance in many colors. And I loved that, I loved working with her," said Flanagan, who recently starred in Michael Winterbottom's "With or Without You."

Young Spanish director Amenabar said in a separate interview with Reuters Television that he and Kidman shared the desire to work with each other. Kidman had seen Amenabar's previous films "Tesis" and "Open Your Eyes."

"It was a mutual thing. She had been trying for a few years do interesting roles in which she would be able to prove the good, incredible actress I think she is.

"And I was needing an actress. So Tom Cruise introduced us, and we decided to do it together," Amenabar said. Cruise, Kidman's ex-husband, produced the film.

Ghost fantasies

Amenabar said he wanted to re-create in the film—set on the Isle of Jersey but shot in Spain—the atmospheres of his childhood ghost fantasies.

"I am a fan of ghost stories and horror films . . . When I sat down to write, I had in mind that I wanted to do a ghost story and I thought about my childhood, when I was very extreme.

"Not because I saw ghosts, which I never saw, but because all the books I used to read, and the stories I used to come up with, and the dreams I used to have had to do with that. So I tried to put myself in the head of a child to get that feeling again," he said.

Amenabar's movie is a scary and haunting tale devoid of special effects—something he did on purpose.

"It is a movie that tries to connect with the audience, but not in the way many horror movie are nowadays, with a very fast cutting and special effects.

"The film works on different levels. One level is for people who want to go to the movies and have a good time and another level for people who want to find something else.

Darkness towards light

"The film is a journey from darkness towards light as a form of knowledge, of religion versus knowledge, and is also an exploration of the dark side of love and family," he said.

Reuters

ZAHN (left) and Walker play a practical joke with deadly consequences.

Ride the thrill wave with 'Joy Ride'

THE SEASON'S scariest, edge-of-your-seat thrill ride, Twentieth Century Fox's new suspense-thriller "Joy Ride" brings together hot young stars Paul Walker, Leelee Sobieski and Steve Zahn in a dark, creepy tale of a practical joke and its deadly consequences.

It's summer vacation, and college freshman Lewis (Walker) is

RIDE/p.F4

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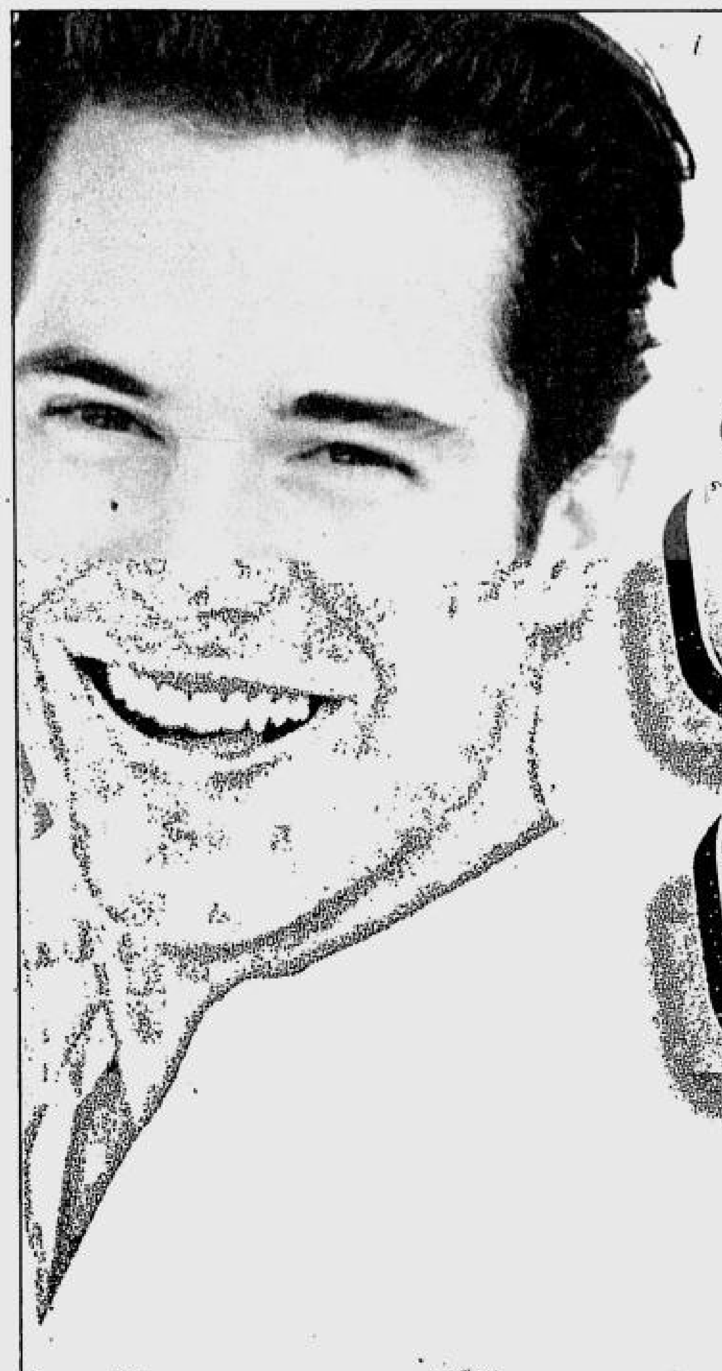

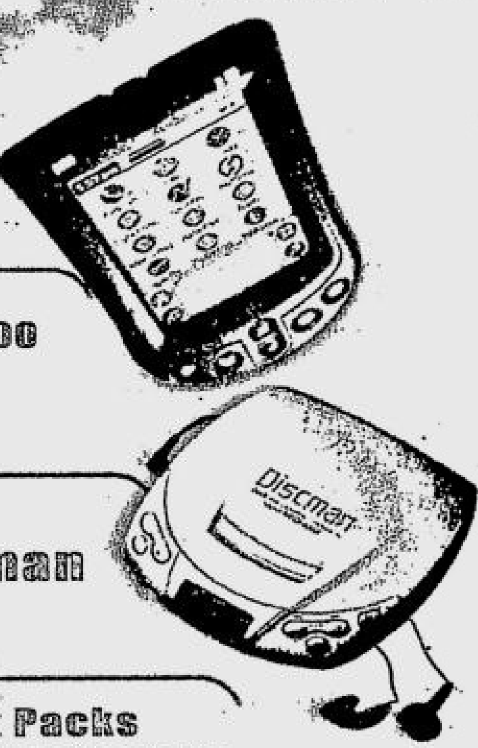

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Mendoza, Rudielyn
Morante, Jojit
Ocay, Jessie
Osana, Alberto
Padilla, Andres III
Raymundo, Hermogenes
Sasam, Mildred
Suizo, Gertrudo
Tamayo, Greciela
Timbol, Ma. Ana
Uchi, Lorente
Valda, Merlan
Ytem, Edgar

₱100,000 Winner - Wennie Geonagga
And thousands of winners of ₱100, ₱1,000, ₱10,000 and ₱100,000
As of Nov.14, 2001

SANGKATUTAK NA CASH! PANALO TALAGA!

PRELIMINARY DRAW WINNERS
₱10,000 - Marilyn Sanchez
₱25,000 - Azucena Espanol
Norma San Diego
₱100,000 - Anecito Banglao

WINNING COMBINATIONS

₱10,000
01 12 20 25 49
12 23 41 43 45
06 07 11 34 46
07 17 21 42 49
09 11 22 33 46
15 16 18 39 41
04 24 29 30 32
03 05 08 16 44
06 27 29 31 39

₱25,000
09 19 26 43 47
01 04 19 24 48

₱100,000
02 13 14 22 31
10 17 42 44 48

WiN UP TO ₱1,000,000 AT THE GRAND DRAW

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on December 1, 2001!

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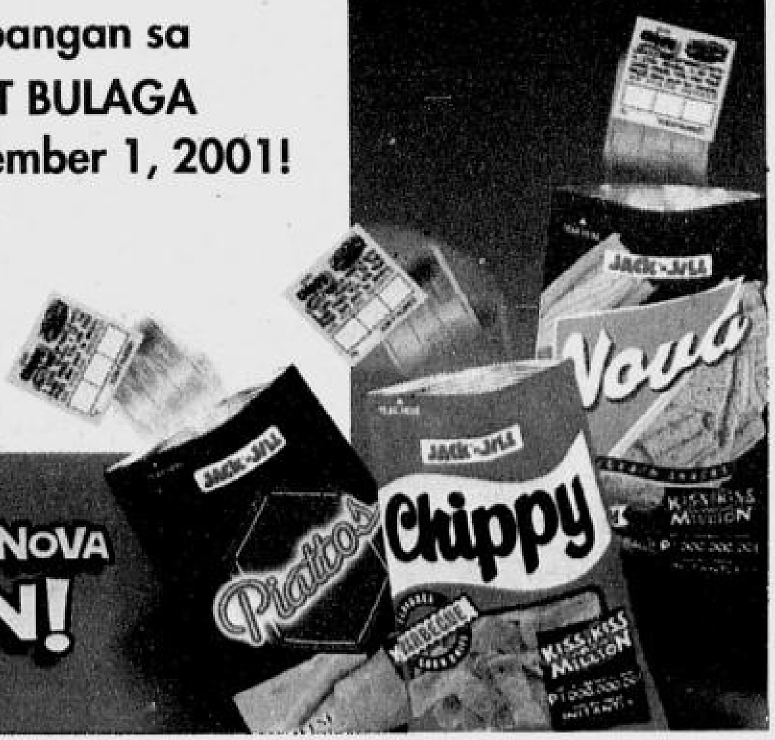


'Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back' as stars of their own movie

DESCRIBED as one of Gen X's championed indie filmmakers, Kevin Smith sets out to make "Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back" the comedy to end all Jay and Silent Bob comedies. With this fifth and perhaps last installment of his New Jersey Chronicles, Smith also bids farewell to a host of other colorful characters he created in "Clerks," "Mallrats," "Chasing Amy" and "Dogma."

The history of Jay and Silent Bob began with the movie, "Clerks," a frank and funny shoot-from-the-hip look at New Jersey convenience store clerks, with irreverent jabs at pop culture. The film introduced the world to two consummate ne'er-do-wells: Jay, a loud-mouthed stoner played by Jason Mewes and Silent Bob his taciturn sidekick, played by Kevin Smith, who was also its writer, director and producer.

The film became a surprise comedy hit in 1994. This automatically spelled success for Smith who went on to do three more films, which he calls parts of a series in his New Jersey Chronicles. Audiences were eventually treated to a number of interesting characters in "Mallrats," "Chasing Amy" and "Dogma." But always, it was Jay and Silent Bob's hip and slacker humor that made each of this film a comedy hit.

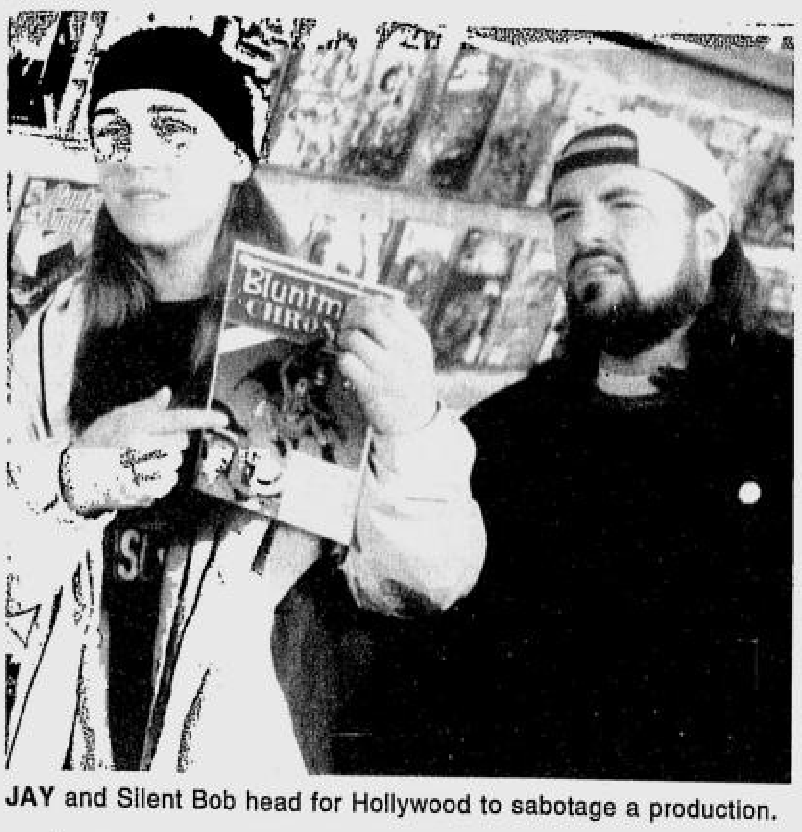
From playing mere recurring characters in the previous films, Jay and Silent Bob take the center stage this time as they travel from New Jersey to Hollywood to save the "reputations" they think they have.

Old friend

The story begins when they discover that their old friend Banky Edwards (Jason Lee) has gone off to produce a film based on their comic book alter egos, Bluntman and Chronic. The film will star two popular young actors: Jason Biggs, who rose to stardom after doing "American Pie;" and James Van Der Beek, who plays Dawson in "Dawson's Creek."

The real Jay and Silent Bob are stunned by the news, and then shattered to find out they are being badmouthed on the Internet for selling their story. The only recourse they see is to head for Hollywood and sabotage the production.

"Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back" is one madcap adventure and hilarious road trip to Hollywood. The film brings together just about every indie actor, major Hollywood star, and unknown characters who ever appeared in a Kevin Smith film. Expect a hilarious cascade of cameo roles by Hollywood big shots and a lot of madness from these two outrageously funny and uninhibited characters.



JAY and Silent Bob head for Hollywood to sabotage a production.

Georgios Panayiotou George Michael
Li Lian Jie Jet Li
Gary Valenciano Gary V.
Jennifer Lopez j.lo
Madonna Louise Ciccone Madonna
Paul Hewson Bono
Greenbelt Mall/Square Greenbelt 1

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GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

Ride the thrill wave with 'Joy Ride'

(From page F3)

ready to embark on a cross-country road trip with the girl of his dreams, Venna (Sobieski). But Lewis' romantic plans are detoured when he stops to rescue his never-do-well older brother Fuller (Zahn).

They get into big trouble when Fuller goads his younger brother into using their newly purchased CB radio to play a childish prank. Using a "come-on" female voice, and sexy CB handle, "Candy Cane," Lewis draws the attention of a trucker—known only by his handle "Rusty Nail"—who Lewis invites to a romantic rendezvous at a roadside inn.

When Rusty Nail learns he's the victim of a practical joke, he wreaks havoc on the boys—and anyone else who gets in the way.

"Joy Ride" is a new contemporary thriller from director John Dahl, who is widely acclaimed for breathing new life into modern noir thrillers, such as "Red Rock West" and "The Last Seduction." In those pictures, and now, "Joy Ride," Dahl finds darkness laced with humor in the heartland of America. Says producer and co-screenwriter J.J. Abrams: "John's movies have a wonderful irony, a real sense of humor, humanity and noir sensibility."

Foundation

Abrams came up with the idea for a scene that became the foundation for "Joy Ride." "Imagine," explains Abrams' co-writer, Clay Tarver, "Two guys are driving together on a remote highway. They're having a good time, when a voice comes over the CB, saying 'You really should have that tail light fixed.' The boys look around—only no one's there."

From this ominous-sounding premise, Abrams and Tarver fashioned a screenplay that was filled with terror, humor, shocks—and more. The writers and director John Dahl give "Joy Ride" a vibrant, contemporary tone rich in character, as well as in thrills and laughs.

"The humor comes from the situation and characters," Tarver explains. "Funny things can happen when you're scared, or placed in a frightening situation. And we tried to create smart, funny and self-deprecating characters who also provide some humor. Lewis and Fuller, for example, although they are estranged, begin to bond as they and Venna drive across the country. And hopefully there are some funny things that result from this bonding."

Adds J.J. Abrams: "The humor also results from the characters reacting to situations the way smart, real people do. They don't exist to be killed, chased or threatened, as is the case in some thrillers. Lewis, Fuller and Venna are likeable and easy to relate to. Our goal was to create a scenario and characters that you would want to follow in a drama or comedy, and not just in a thriller."

Empathy

"Joy Ride" required actors who are young, empathetic and highly skilled. According to the filmmakers, that's exactly what they found in Zahn, Walker and Sobieski. "Paul brings tremendous empathy to his role, and captures some wonderful emotional beats of the younger brother," states producer Bridget Johnson.

John Dahl explained that Zahn's "finely tuned sense of humor" was critical to the role and to giving the story its unique mix of laughs and tension. Sobieski, notes producer Chris Moore, is definitely "somebody whom women in the audiences are going to relate to and say, "This is an interesting, complex woman."

Ultimately, "Joy Ride" points to the intrinsic danger in even the most benign practical jokes. "I think there's something inherently terrifying in pulling a prank on someone."

Abrams explains, "because there's always a chance that you'll be screwing with the wrong person...and that person has identified you. I think that's why you giggle when you order pizzas for your neighbor.

Everyone relates to the idea of playing a joke on someone, as well as to experiencing vicariously someone being ID'd for it. And that translates to 'Joy Ride.' There's a kind of thrill in watching the characters suffer the consequences for doing something that any one of us is capable of."

Saturday SPECIAL

Whoopi Goldberg gets her star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

HONORARY Mayor of Hollywood Johnny Grant feeds Whoopi Goldberg a piece of her birthday cake. AP

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning actor and comedian Whoopi Goldberg joined the constellation of Hollywood's honorees Tuesday, getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame as she celebrated her 46th birthday.

New home

Goldberg's star—the 2,186th on the walk—is in front of the Kodak Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard, the new home of the Academy Award ceremonies.

She dedicated the honor to her fans.

"I want to thank you guys because really, you guys come see my movies or you watch them on TV, and you don't care if I get fat. You don't care if I get old," she said.

Movie credits

Goldberg's movie credits include "The Color Purple," "Sister Act," and "Ghost," for which she won an Oscar for best supporting actress.

She is also the executive producer and the "center square" of the TV game show, "Hollywood Squares," and hosted the Academy Awards ceremony in 1994, 1996 and 1999. *AFP*

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Tarantino lining up Asian action greats for film

LOS ANGELES—Director Quentin Tarantino said on Monday that his next film, "Kill Bill," about an organization of assassins, was likely to unite two action giants of Asian cinema, Hong Kong's Yuen Woo Ping and Japan's Sonny Chiba.

"It's not official and money hasn't changed any hands," Tarantino told Reuters, "but Yuen Woo Ping will choreograph the Chinese kung fu action and Sonny Chiba will choreograph the samurai action."

Professional killers

"Kill Bill" is about a female assassin who tries to leave a group of professional killers. Her fellow hit men show up at her wedding and kill everyone in the church, leaving her and her unborn child for dead.

TARANTINO/p.G3

THURMAN. Plays female assassin.

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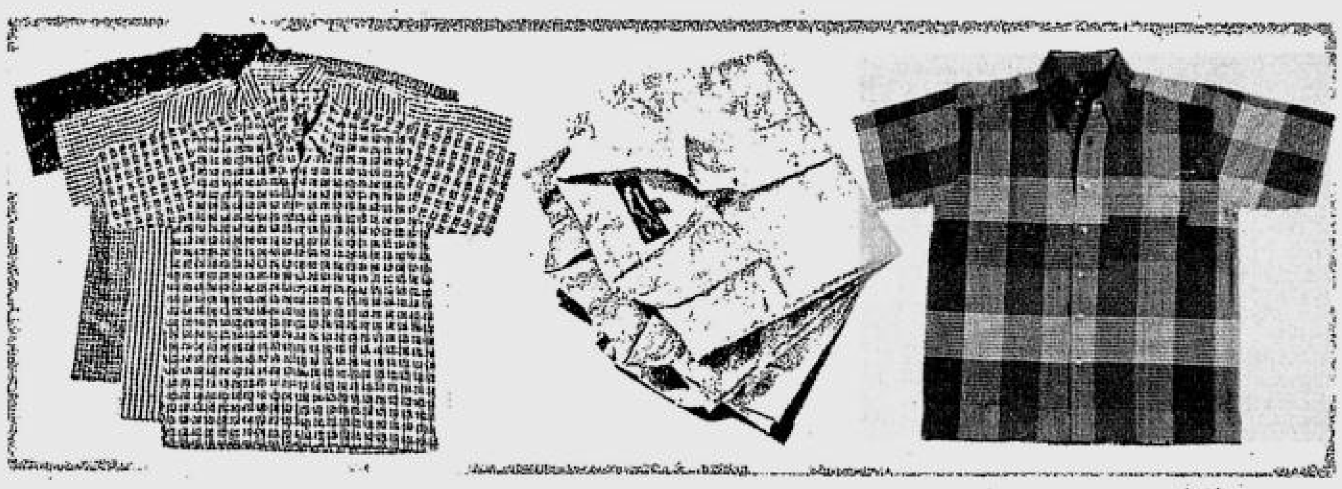

Short - sleeve
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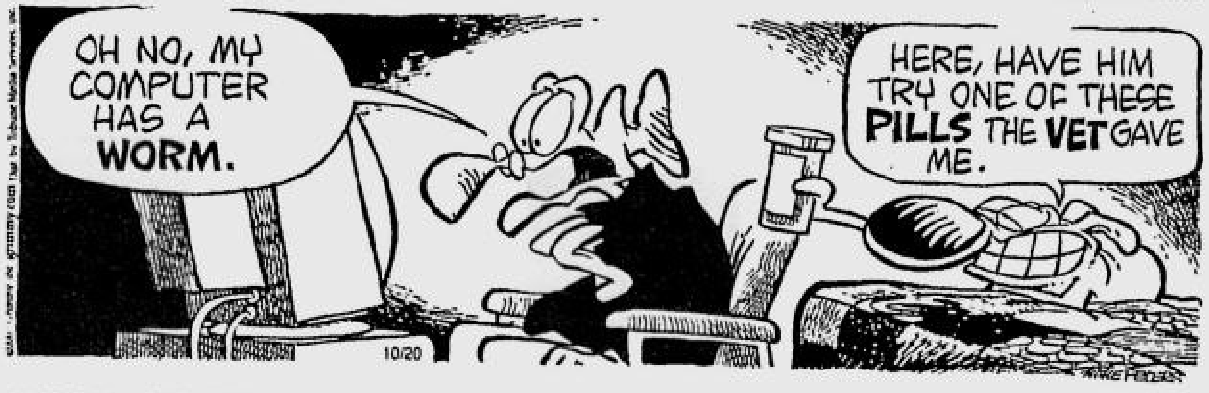
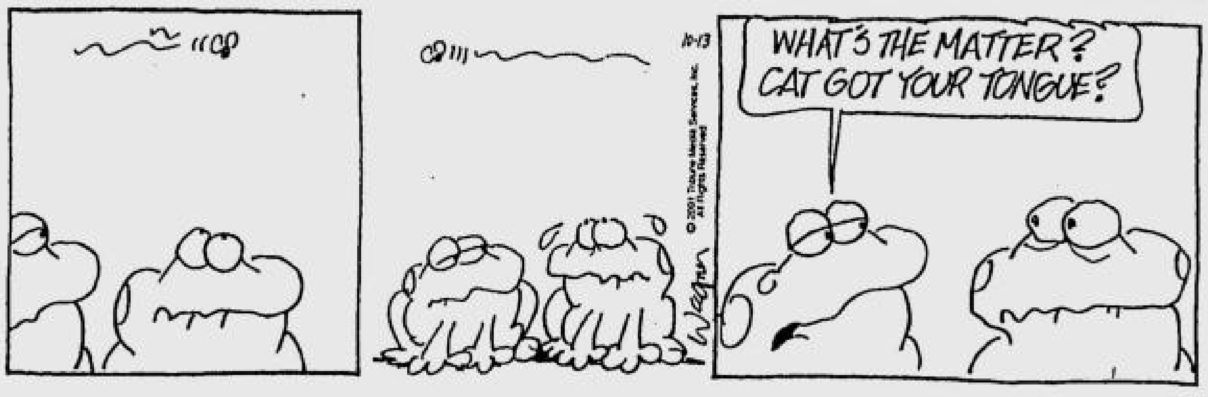
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OH NO, MY COMPUTER HAS A WORM.
HERE, HAVE HIM TRY ONE OF THESE PILLS THE VET GAVE ME.
10/20

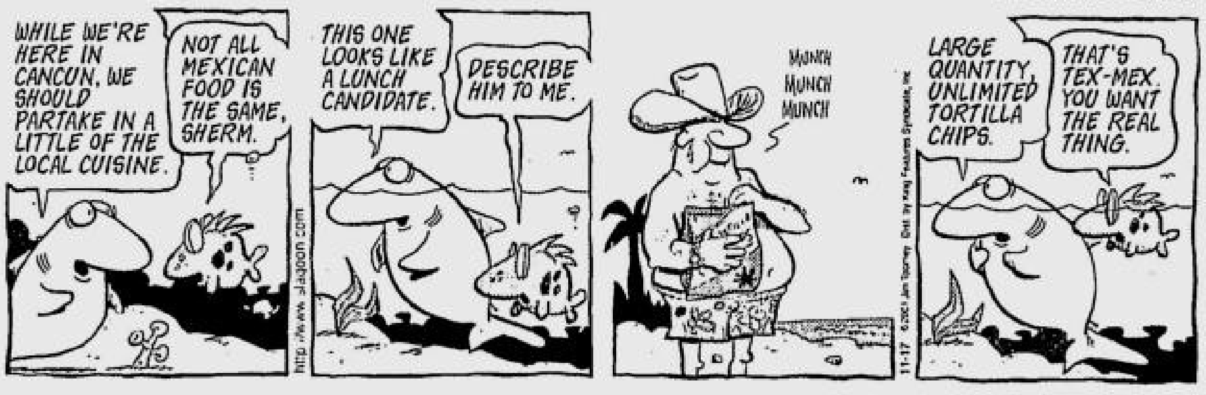
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
10-13

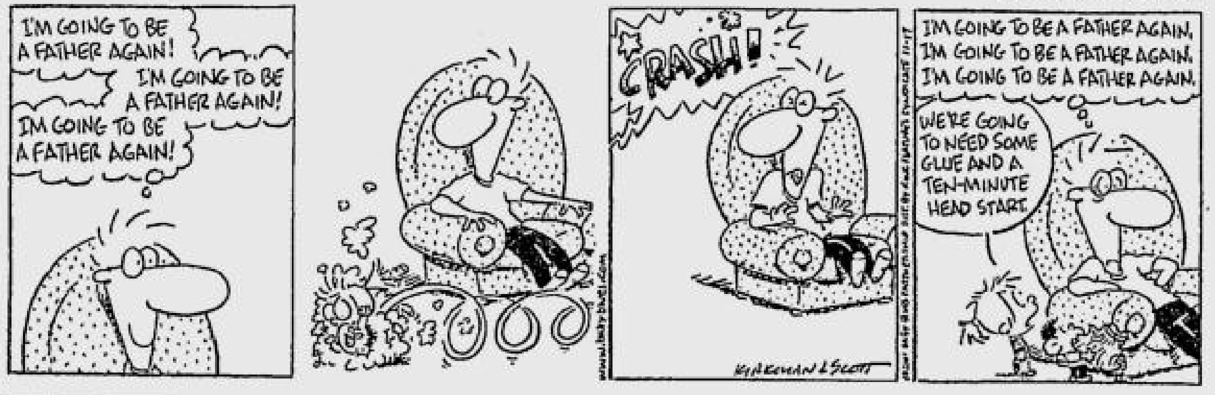
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHILE WE'RE HERE IN CANCUN, WE SHOULD PARTAKE IN A LITTLE OF THE LOCAL CUISINE.
NOT ALL MEXICAN FOOD IS THE SAME, SHERM.
THIS ONE LOOKS LIKE A LUNCH CANDIDATE.
DESCRIBE HIM TO ME.
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH
LARGE QUANTITY, UNLIMITED TORTILLA CHIPS.
THAT'S TEX-MEX. YOU WANT THE REAL THING.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-17

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M GOING TO BE A FATHER AGAIN!
I'M GOING TO BE A FATHER AGAIN!
I'M GOING TO BE A FATHER AGAIN!
CRASH!
I'M GOING TO BE A FATHER AGAIN. I'M GOING TO BE A FATHER AGAIN. I'M GOING TO BE A FATHER AGAIN.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED SOME GLUE AND A TEN-MINUTE HEAD START.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Danny De Vito, Martin Scorsese, Lauren Hutton, Daisy Fuentes, Lorne Michaels, RuPaul

Happy Birthday: Find satisfaction in pursuing your own interests, not in watching others do the work. Don't overspend in the process. If you are prudent and innovative, you will discover how far you can stretch a dollar. Your numbers: 19, 25, 26, 33, 41, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Have some fun. Make plans with compatible friends. Meeting people will lead to interesting conversations and inspiring new ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put in some extra work today. Don't lend or borrow. Get-rich-quick schemes will not be successful. If you are late paying people back, you may have difficulties with them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The more you achieve, the better you will feel. Don't expect help and you won't be disappointed. This is a day to work alone and reflect on what you want to do in the future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Being professional and industrious will be crucial. Take care of the extras. Advancement is possible if you play your cards right.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make plans. for a special outing with loved ones that is enjoyable, inexpensive and conducive to strengthening family ties. If you are single you can meet potential mates if you go out with friends .

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take care of any. issue that arises immediately. Make sure you have all the pertinent facts before acting. False information from someone trying to start problems is likely. Go directly to the source and be frank about what you've been told.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be thinking about all sorts of things today. Be careful. Minor mishaps will occur if you don't concentrate on what you are doing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take care of personal papers yourself. Go over any contracts or agreements thoroughly before signing. You will be disappointed if someone you trusted tries to pull a fast one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You must act with compassion to avoid unpleasant encounters. Being thoughtful and considerate will go much further than taking a negative approach. The friendlier you are, the more accommodating others are likely to be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Refuse to disagree with anyone who is baiting you. Don't confide in a relative who tends to meddle in other people's affairs or you'll have to defend yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Get out and show everyone your proficiency in competitive events. This is a great day to start anew by quitting a bad habit. Strong willpower will come to your rescue.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Romantic opportunities will be plentiful if you socialize with friends and are charming. If you are already in a relationship, plan something very special for the two of you.

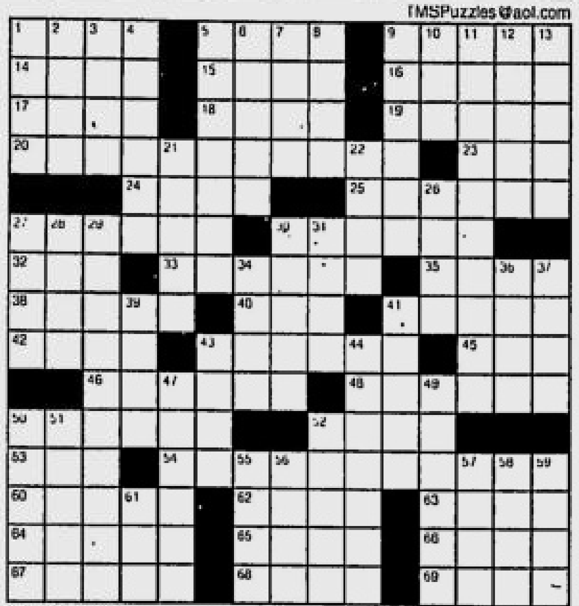
Birthday Baby: You are a powerhouse who will never back down, and you will always welcome a challenge. You are a hard-working crusader and a welcomed team player.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 People flicks
5 Collectors' groups
9 Wing movements
14 Rights grp.
15 Sandwich cookie
16 H. Hamlin TV series
17 Nuremberg no
18 U.S. leader
19 One-celled animal
20 "You Bet Your Life" man
23 Letters for 41
24 Claw
25 NRA spokesman
27 Photo collections
30 First game
32 Yokohama OK
33 Perfect place
35 Sawbucks
38 Bodybuilder Charles
40 Shea player
41 Maker's sticker
42 Big Ben, e.g.
43 Mexican shawl
45 "All About __"
46 Bathhouse
48 Dripped
50 Stirred up
52 Hair wave, for short
53 Bigger pic
54 "The Match Game" man
60 Dust-up
62 God of love
63 Nastase of tennis
64 Representative
65 V
66 Casual farewell
67 Emotional spasms
68 Nourish
69 Cinch

DOWN
1 Big __ theory
2 Cake finisher
3 Potpourri
4 Political pundit John
5 Pre-Socratic philosopher
6 Flynn of films
7 Pour profusely
8 Slugger Sammy
9 Straw-colored
10 Flight from the law
11 "Jeopardy" man
12 Painter Picasso
13 Beau
21 "The Stranger" author
22 Flightless bird
26 Stiff hair
27 Peck in "Moby Dick"
28 After time
29 "Name That Tune" man
30 "Norma" or "Louise"
31 Pocket bread
34 Sign
36 Actress Campbell
37 Rosebud in "Citizen Kane"
39 __ and alack!
41 Inclined not to
43 Marquis de __
44 Delighted
47 Sires
49 External boundaries
50 Change charts
51 European lake
52 Verify
55 Actress Hildegarde
56 A Great Lake
57 __-Ude, Russia
58 Dove or Rudner
59 Tide type
61 Part of the U.K.

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By D.J. DeChristopher
Staten Island, NY

ANSWER ON MONDAY 10/3/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

T	A	P	E	R	■	S	C	R	U	B	■	T	D	S
A	G	I	L	E	■	C	H	I	N	O	■	E	E	E
M	A	T	I	N	E	E	I	D	O	L	■	A	F	C
■	■	■	■	E	D	N	A	■	■	E	P	C	O	T
R	E	F	U	G	E	E	■	M	A	R	C	H	E	S
E	R	A	S	E	R	■	R	E	P	O	S	E	■	■
C	O	V	E	S	■	S	O	L	E	S	■	R	A	T
A	D	O	S	■	S	H	U	T	S	■	O	S	L	O
P	E	R	■	G	L	A	S	S	■	D	U	P	E	R
■	■	I	C	E	A	G	E	■	S	I	Z	E	R	S
I	N	T	U	I	T	S	■	R	I	S	O	T	T	O
D	U	E	T	S	■	■	H	A	L	O	■	■	■	■
E	D	S	■	H	O	M	E	T	O	W	N	B	O	Y
A	G	O	■	A	W	A	R	E	■	N	O	O	N	E
L	E	N	■	S	E	E	D	S	■	S	W	O	O	P

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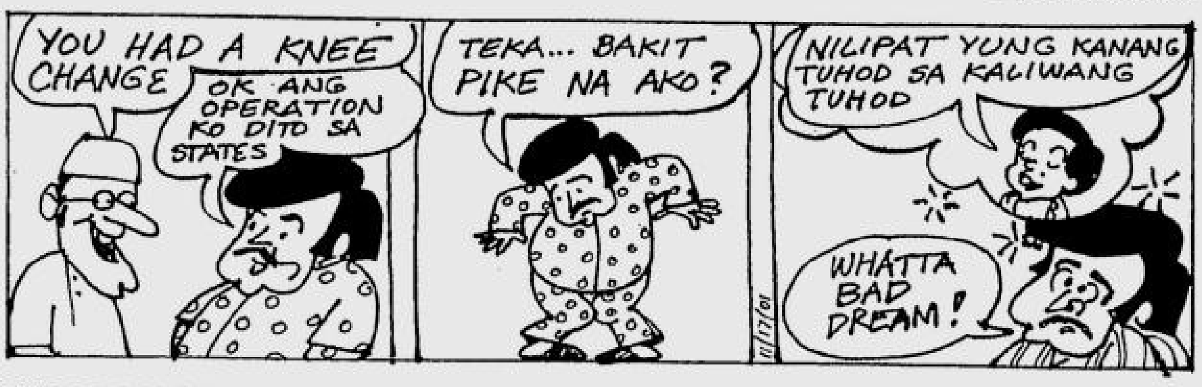
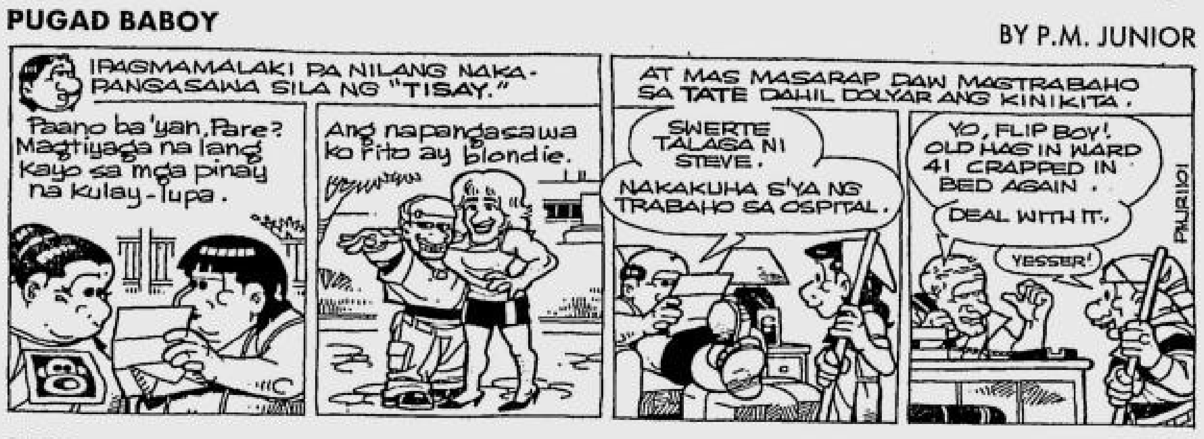
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


YOU HAD A KNEE CHANGE
OK ANG OPERATION KO DITO SA STATES
TEKA... BAKIT PIKE NA AKO?
11/17/01
NILIPAT YUNG KANANG TUHOD SA KALIWANG TUHOD
WHATTA BAD DREAM!

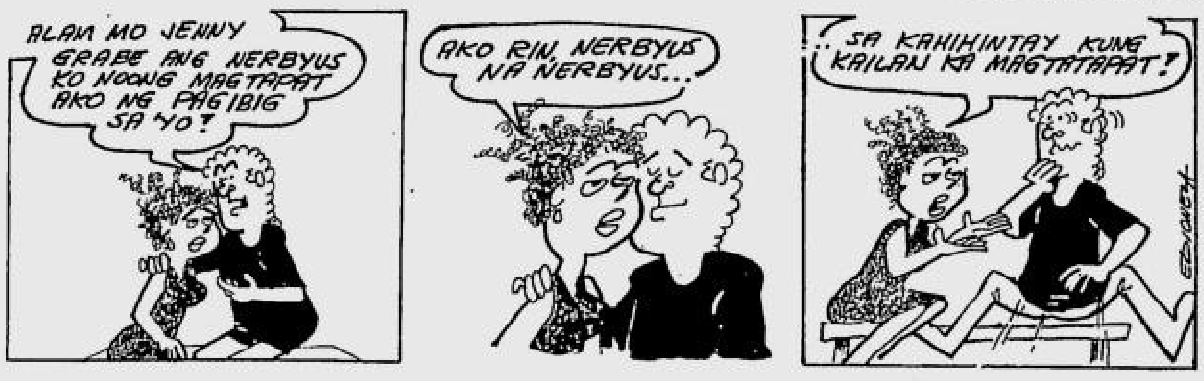
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IPAGMAMALAKI PA NILANG NAKAPANGASAWA SILA NG "TISAY."
Paano ba'yan, Pare? Magtiyaga na lang kayo sa mga pinay na kulay-lupa.
Ang napangasawa ko rito ay blondie.
AT MAS MASARAP DAW MAGTRABAHO SA TATE DAHIL DOLYAR ANG KINIKITA.
SWERTE TALAGA NI STEVE.
NAKAKUHA S'YA NG TRABAHO SA OSPITAL.
YO, FLIP BOY!. OLD HAG IN WARD 41 CRAPPED IN BED AGAIN.
DEAL WITH IT.
YESSER!
PMJR101

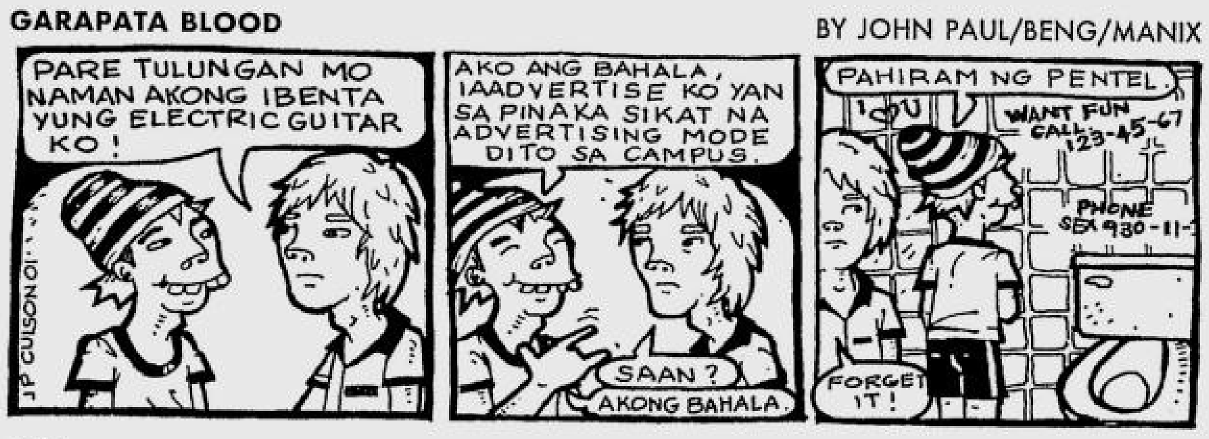
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ALAM MO JENNY GRABE ANG NERBYUS KO NOONG MAGTAPAT AKO NG PAG IBIG SA 'YO?
AKO RIN, NERBYUS NA NERBYUS...
...SA KAHIHINTAY KUNG KAILAN KA MAGTATAPAT!

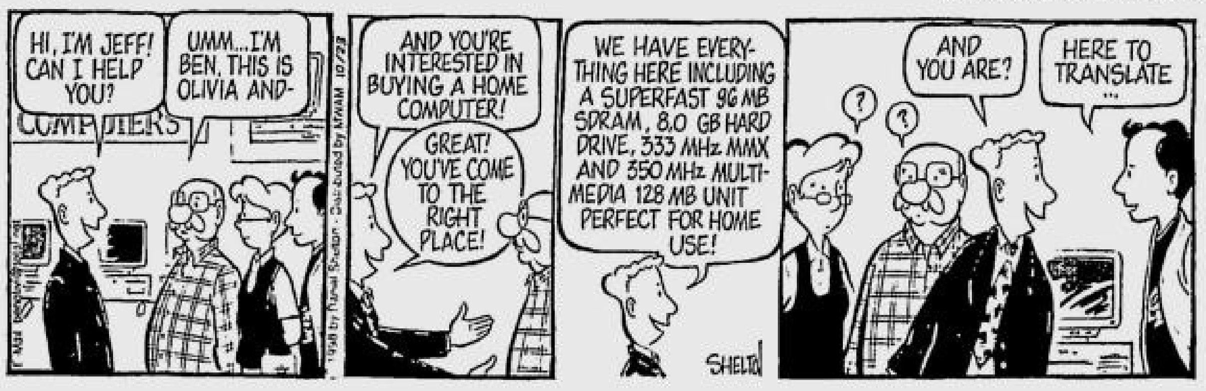
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


PARE TULUNGAN MO NAMAN AKONG IBENTA YUNG ELECTRIC GUITAR KO!
JP CUISON 01
AKO ANG BAHALA, IAADVERTISE KO YAN SA PINAKA SIKAT NA ADVERTISING MODE DITO SA CAMPUS.
SAAN?
AKONG BAHALA.
PAHIRAM NG PENTEL.
WANT FUN CALL 123-45-67
PHONE SEX 930-11-
FORGET IT!

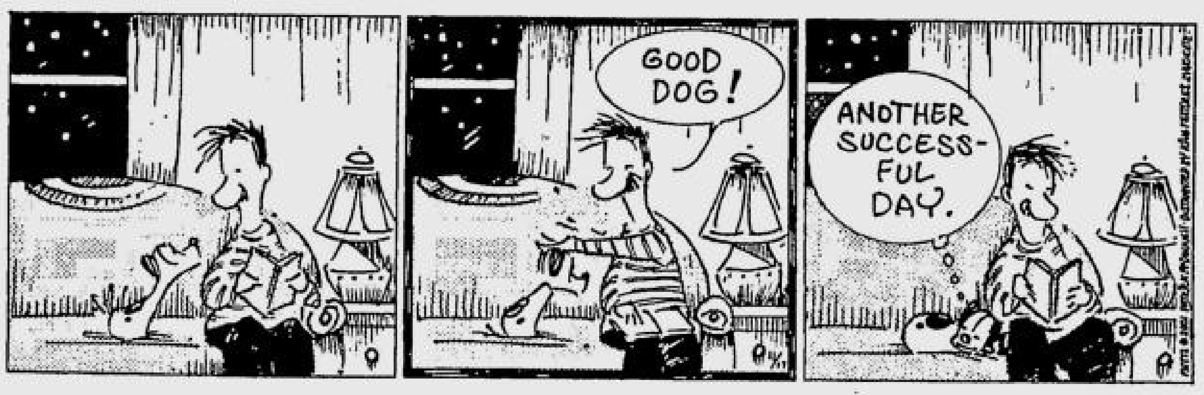
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HI, I'M JEFF! CAN I HELP YOU?
UMM...I'M BEN, THIS IS OLIVIA AND-
COMPUTERS
AND YOU'RE INTERESTED IN BUYING A HOME COMPUTER!
GREAT! YOU'VE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE!
WE HAVE EVERYTHING HERE INCLUDING A SUPERFAST 96 MB SDRAM, 8.0 GB HARD DRIVE, 333 MHz MMX AND 350 MHz MULTIMEDIA 128 MB UNIT PERFECT FOR HOME USE!
?
?
AND YOU ARE?
HERE TO TRANSLATE ...
SHELTON

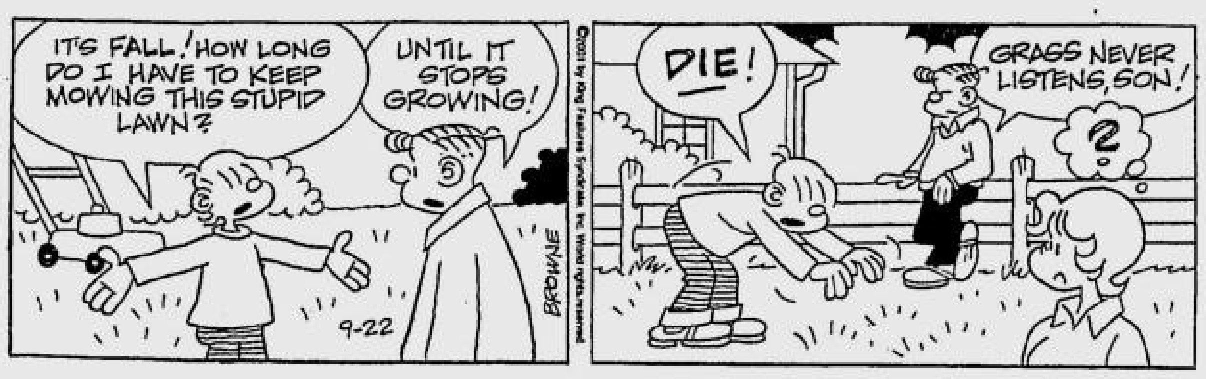
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GOOD DOG!
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DAY.

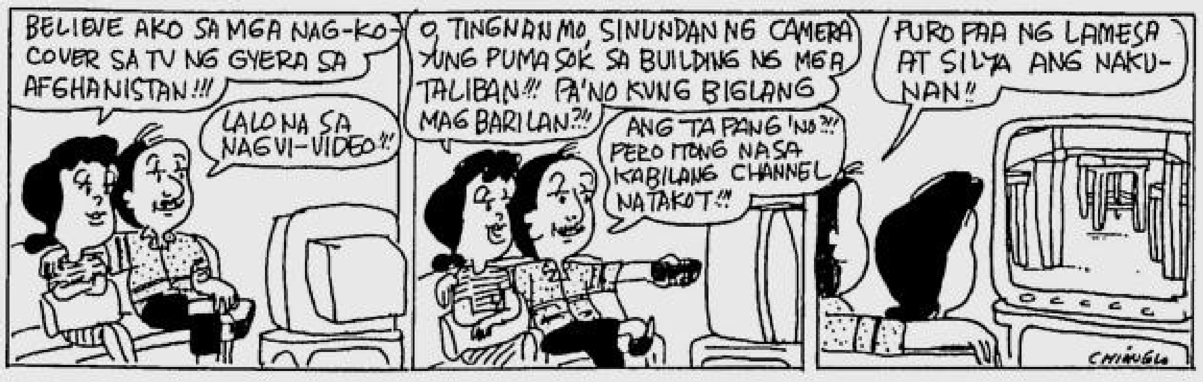
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IT'S FALL! HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO KEEP MOWING THIS STUPID LAWN?
UNTIL IT STOPS GROWING!
9-22
DIE!
GRASS NEVER LISTENS, SON!
?

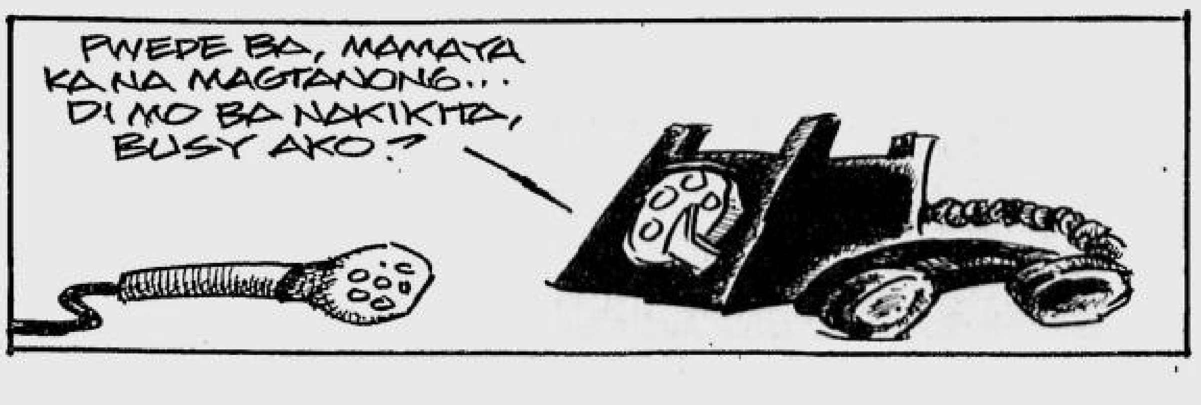
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BELIEVE AKO SA MGA NAG-KO-COVER SA TV NG GYERA SA AFGHANISTAN!!!
LALO NA SA NAGVI-VIDEO!!
O, TINGNAN MO, SINUNDAN NG CAMERA YUNG PUMASOK SA BUILDING NG MGA TALIBAN!! PA'NO KUNG BIGLANG MAG BARILAN?!!
ANG TAPANG 'NO?!! PERO ITONG NASA KABILANG CHANNEL NATAKOT!!
PURO PAA NG LAMESA AT SILYA ANG NAKUNAN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


PWEDE BA, MAMAYA KA NA MAGTANONG... DI MO BA NAKIKITA, BUSY AKO?

Coching's 'komiks' and cinematic legacy showcased at CCP

TWO of novelist-illustrator Francisco V. Coching's well-loved *komiks* characters come to life anew as the Arts Studies Foundation, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Film Division screen Ishmael Bernal's "El Vibora" and Celso Ad. Castillo's "Mahiwagang Daigdig ni Pedro Penduko" at 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively, today at the CCP Tanghalang Manuel Conde (Audio Visual Room).

Turbulent era

Starting Vic Vargas, Boots Anson Roa, Leopoldo Salcedo and Eddie Garcia, "El Vibora" is a period movie written by Manuel Pichel set in the turbulent era of the Philippine uprising against Spain. It won major awards at the 1972 Manila Film Festival. "Mahiwagang Daigdig ni Pedro Penduko" is the second in a series of remakes of the 1954 film classic about the adventures of a mythical folk hero originally megged by National Artist Gerry de Leon. Its star-studded cast is led by Ramon Zamora and Lotis Key.

The film screening is a component of the ongoing "Komiks: Katha at Guhit ni Francisco V. Coching," a retrospective exhibit at the Bulwagang Carlos V. Francisco (CCP Little Theater Lobby) and the Pasilyo Vicente Manansala (Second Floor Hallway). It features blown-up digitized photographic images, original illustrations and professional and personal memorabilia of Coching's outstanding body of works.

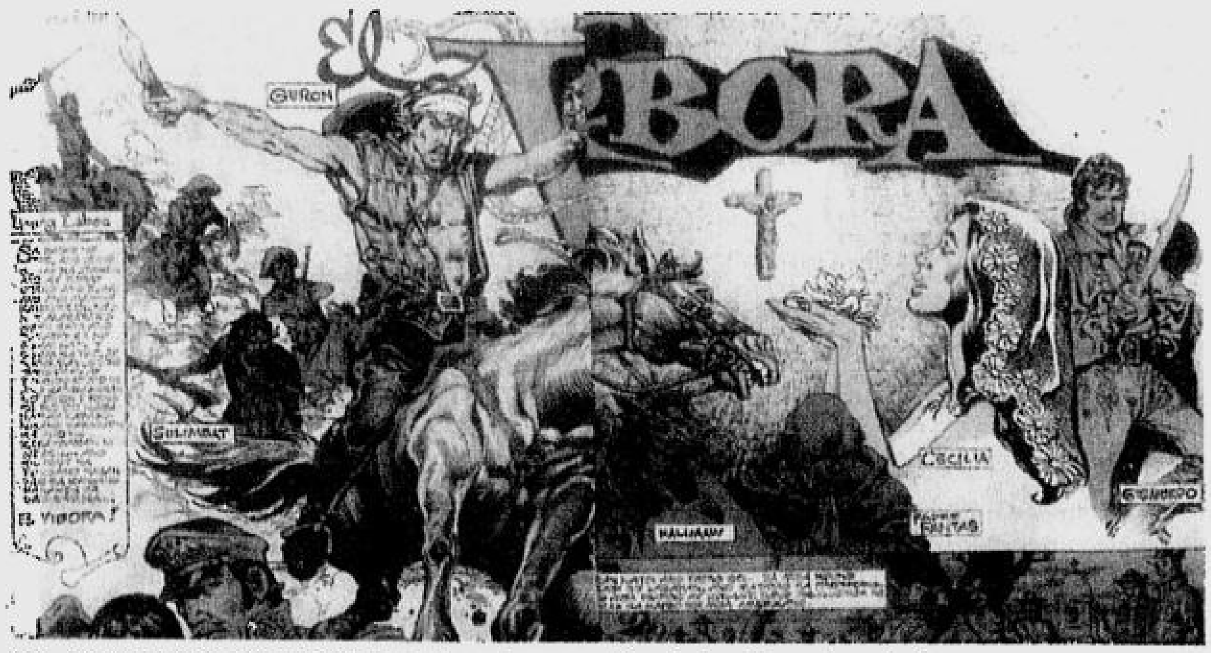
Also featured is a parallel exhibit highlighting the transformative bequest of *komiks* in a contemporary locale running simultaneously at the Pasilyo Victorio Edades (CCP Fourth Floor Hallway) featuring the works of Brenda Fajardo and Alfredo Juan Aquilizan. Both exhibits run until Nov. 30.

Accompanying the exhibitions is a book of scholarly and popular essays, testimonials and a photo folio of Coching's life and works written by scholars, critics, and literary writers Patrick Flores, Alice Guillermo, Danilo Reyes, Jose Tence Ruiz, Gino Dormiendo and Elmar Beltran Ingles.

Unforgettable characters

A two-time National Artist shortlisted candidate, Coching wrote and illustrated 56 *komiks* novels, 51 of them adapted into film. He was a popular personality from the 1930s to the early 1970s producing such unforgettable *komiks* characters as Hagibis, Barbaro, Satur, Lapu-Lapu, Pedro Penduko, El Indio, Maldita, Talipandas, Dimasalang and Condenado, among others.

Admission to the film screenings is open to the public on a first-come, first-served, limited-seating capacity basis. Call the CCP Film Division (832-5120) or Lee Coching (833-4167).



"EL VIBORA," Coching's illustrated novel, came alive in *komiks* and movie forms.

Alabang Town Center opens entertainment, cinema complex

ALABANG Town Center recently opened its Cinema and Entertainment Complex with much fanfare and elaborate preparations.

Recreation destination

It consists of high-powered cinemas, a bowling alley, a billiard hall, a major sports shop, game arcade and several restaurants and bars. The ATC Cinema and Entertainment Complex is fast proving to be the recreation destination for young people and families alike south of Manila.

The opening was highlighted by a concert by The Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Prof. Rodel Colmenar, playing memorable themes from box office hit films such as "Star Wars," "Indiana Jones," "Titanic," and "E.T."

A dancer rapelled from the second level of the Corte de las Palmas, reminiscent of the breathtaking Tom Cruise stunt in "Mission Impossible," to introduce a number by the Powerdance. Guests were also treated to free movies and free popcorn from Taters.

Celebrities were on hand to give the ATC Cinema and Entertainment Complex a rousing welcome.

Image model

Seen during the festivities were modern-day heroine Clarissa Ocampo (who took a peek at Cinema 5 showing "Down to Earth"), billiard great Efren "Bata" Reyes, who owns Efren's Magic Billiard Hall at the complex, image model China Cojuangco, ABS-CBN's Pat-P Daza, etc.

Ayala Corp.'s officials also dropped by—Ayala Land president Francisco Licuanan, AVP Rowena Nazareth, VP Dave Rafael, ALI-CCG AVP Rowena Tomeldan, CCG senior division manager Tina Esguerra, Ayala Center marketing manager Cathy Bengzon, ATC general manager Pierangeli Sulit and its marketing staff led by marketing manager Maricris Rocha-Bernardino and Christine Enriquez.

Giving their all-out support were business owners and tenants of Alabang Town Center—Jose Puyat of Paeng's Town Center Bowl, Victor Siasat of Guess and Tower Records, Raphael Lim Soon of North Park, Marisa Garcia of Island Spice, Jay Gervasio of Olympic World, and Raffy Prats of Timezone.

Aside from the cinemas, the new ATC Entertainment Complex also houses popular family restos like Gerry's Grill, North Park, Dusit Thani, Mann Hann, Cheesecake Etc., Kobachi, Figaro, Tataers, interspersed between curio shops and Timezone Arcade.

Tarantino lining up Asian action greats for film

(From page G1)

As it turns out, she takes a bullet in her brain that leaves her in a coma for five years. When she awakes, she is out for revenge and hops around the world killing gang members.

She leaves the leader, Bill, for last.

"I've written this character for Uma (Thurman), and they (Yuen and Chiba) are going to put her through training, where she will have to learn the kung fu animal styles," Tarantino said. "And I'll also have Yuen and Sonny play parts in it."

Fight director

Chiba is known in America for his 1970s "Street Fighter" karate films. Yuen raised his profile as fight director for "The Matrix" (1999) and "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" (2000).

Having written the film over the past year, Tarantino describes "Kill Bill" as a "duck press" amalgamating his 35 years of watching kung fu flicks, samurai movies, spaghetti Westerns, 1960s spy thrillers and tough-as-nails-women revenge films.

Tarantino stormed into Hollywood with the gangland thriller "Reservoir Dogs" in 1992 and has since directed such films as "Pulp Fiction" (1994) and "Jackie Brown" (1997). *Reuters*

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   - receipt of any Soft & Dri, Gillette Series, Right Guard or Gillette Foamy Product (dated Sept 15 - Dec 15, 2001)
   - receipt of any Braun Appliance purchased (dated Sept 15 - Dec 15, 2001)
   - 1 empty blister card of Gillette razor or refills
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2. Every entry must be mailed individually.
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4. Promo period will be from September 15, 2001 to December 15, 2001.
5. Coverage of the promotion is nationwide.
6. Last day of receipt of entries is on December 15, 2001.
7. A DTI representative will be present to supervise the draw at 10:00 am to 12 nn on December 28, 2001. Venue will be at Gillette (Phils.), Inc., main office at Villongco Road, Bo. San Dionisio, Sucat, Parañaque, Metro Manila.
8. A winner can only win once. If name is drawn more than once, winner gets the prize of higher value.
9. Winner will be announced via a nationally circulated newspaper.
10. All winners will be notified by registered mail.
11. For METRO MANILA winners, prizes may be claimed at Gillette (Phils.), Inc., main office at Villongco Road, Bo. San Dionisio, Sucat, Paranaque, Metro Manila. PROVINCIAL WINNERS can claim their prize in the following redemption address:

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    or HARI Integrated Bacolod Address: Dawis San Sebastian Bacolod City
    Central Visayas: MHL Marketing Address: #21-H Adelfa Street San Jose Village Tisa Labangon Cebu City
    Eastern Visayas: Eastern Visayas Food Trade Centre Inc. Address: # 70 Marasbas Tacloban City
    North Mindanao: ORO Graphic Marketing Address: Captain Vicente Roa Ext. Cagayan de Oro City
    or ASDAL Marketing Address: Cor. Covera & San Francisco Street Butuan City Agusan del Norte
    Eastern Mindanao: LETON Trade Address: #905 Rosal Street Flores Village Bangkal Davao City
    Western Mindanao: ATM Marketing Address: JT Bldg. Atilano Loop Veterans Avenue Ext. Zamboanga City
12. A valid ID (present company ID, student's ID, driver's license, TIN/SSS cards) with registered letter must be presented to claim your prize.
13. Twenty percent tax on prizes exceeding P 10,000 to be paid by Gillette.
14. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification will be forfeited with prior approval of the Department of Trade and Industry.
15. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
16. Employees of Gillette (Phils.), Inc., its advertising and promo agencies, their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from participating in the promotion.

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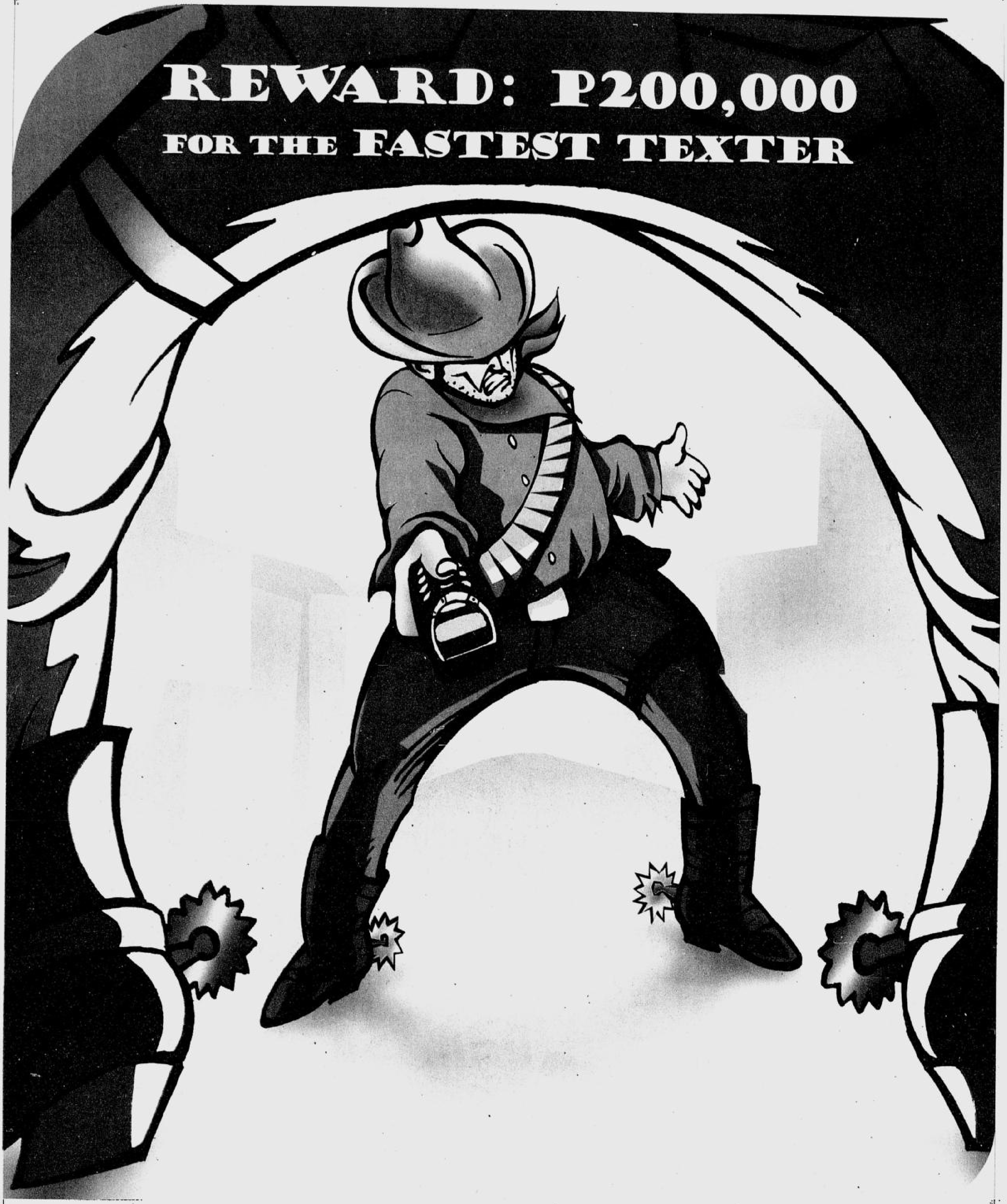

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Registration forms will be available from Nov. 17 to Dec. 8, 2001. To qualify, you must own any Nokia mobile phone except Nokia 9000, 9110, 9210 and 5510. Present one valid ID with picture & signature & your completed registration form at any of the 4 elimination round game sites: Nov. 22, Glorietta Activity Center; Nov. 24 & 25, Alabang Town Center Town Plaza; Dec. 1 & 2, Fiesta Carnival, Araneta Center; and Dec. 8 & 9, The Strip, Katipunan. The semi-final and championship rounds will be on Dec. 15 & 16 respectively, Robinson's Place Faura Atrium. Promo runs from Nov. 23 to Dec. 16, 2001.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3906, Series of 2001

Sumama ako diyan!

Junior INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2001 ◆ 12 PAGES ◆ VOLUME 5, NUMBER 58

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A Trip in the Woods

A Young Writer's Journalism Camp Experience

BY **LEPHARGY C. GELLENA**

SCENIC spots and acres and acres of wildlife. I found myself trudging through these along with 40 other kids. It was Day Two of our Journalism Camp ***(See Campus News on Page 9)*** in Subic's Jest Camp and everyone was excited about the jungle survival lecture and the longer hike through the forest.

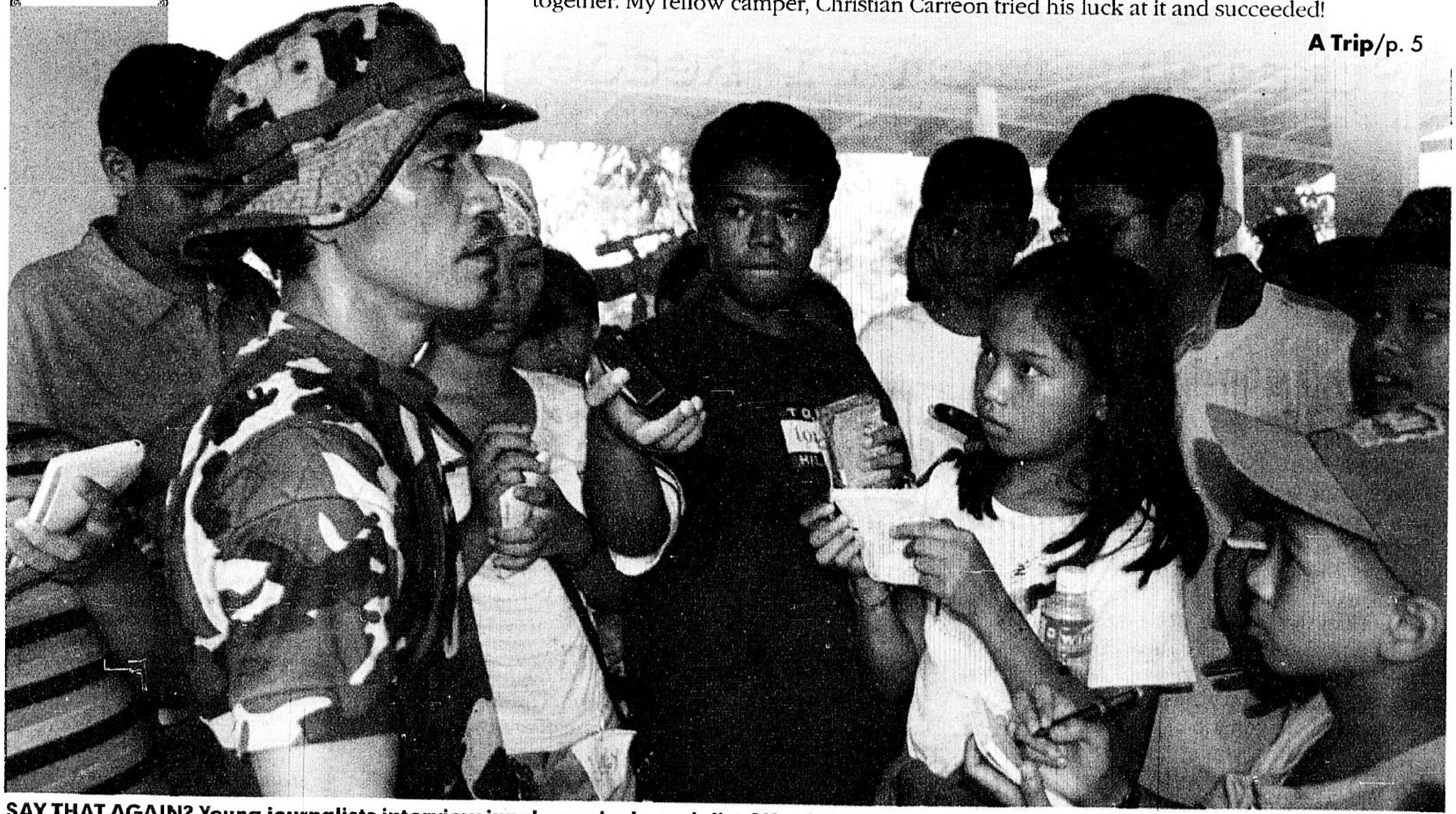
We met Mr. Alfredo Viernes, a 38-year-old specialist on jungle survival techniques. He sure looked the part! He was wearing army fatigues, sturdy black boots and a floppy ranger hat.

The Mighty Bamboo!

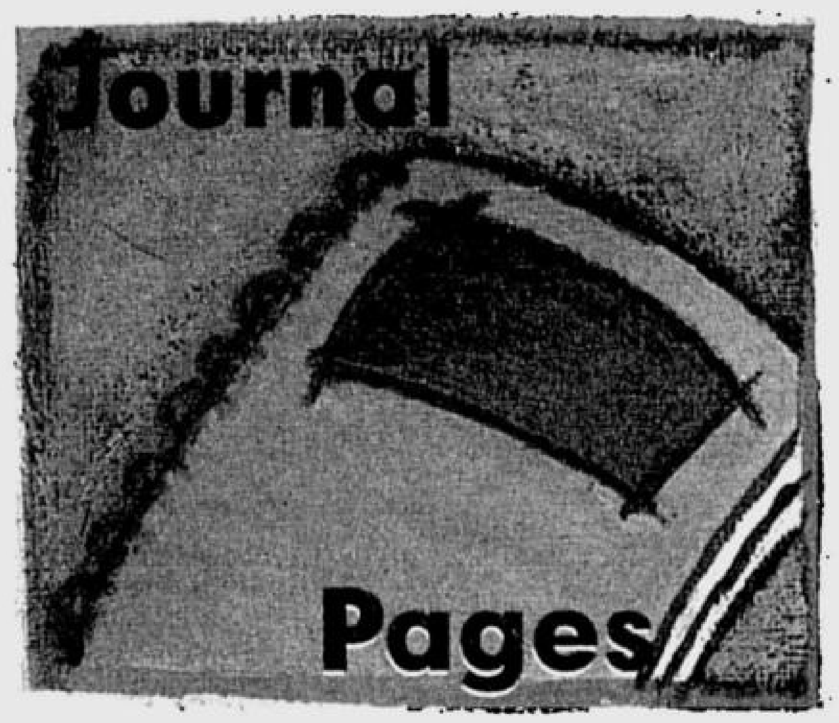
Everyone was delighted at his demonstration of the uses of the bamboo. Proving once more that the bamboo is indeed the tree of life—next only to the coconuts—he turned pieces of bamboo into a spoon, a two-way cup, some plates. He showed us a kind of bamboo that—when chopped open—yielded clean, drinkable water and gave everyone a sip.

He even made fire without using a matchstick by rapidly rubbing two pieces of bamboo together. My fellow camper, Christian Carreon tried his luck at it and succeeded!

A Trip/p. 5

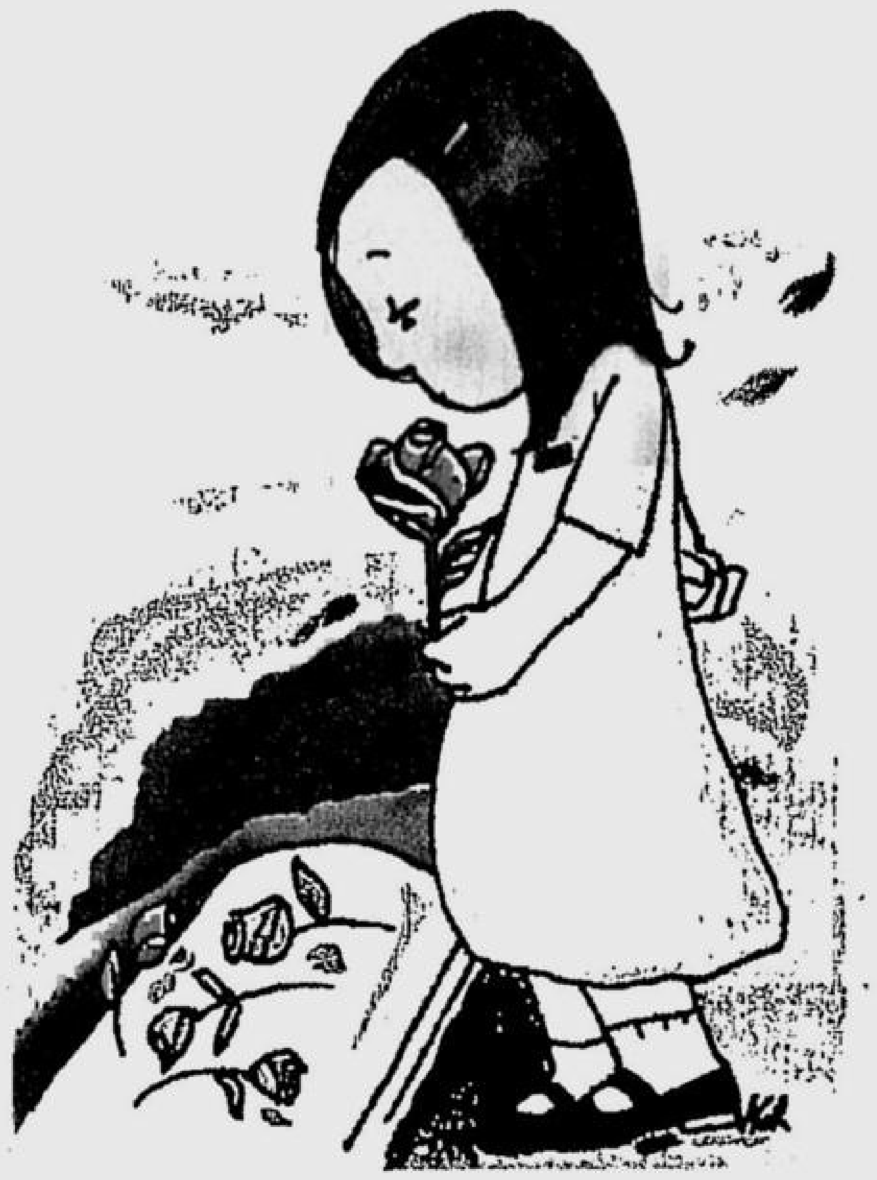


SAY THAT AGAIN? Young journalists interview jungle survival specialist Alfredo Viernes for their feature writing assignments. NATASHA VIZCARRA



My Thoughts on Death

BY STEPHANIE C. FERRER
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
QUEZON CITY



EARLY last year, I wondered what it could have been like to attend a funeral. I was 11 years old then and not once had I attended a wake.

But one day in late November last year my great-grandmother, *Lola* Estring, died in her bed. I was very sad because she passed away. But I did not cry because we weren't that close.

The four-day vigil was held at Arlington Memorial Chapel in Quezon City. I was there every night. Many of my relatives came and went and sometimes stayed for the night. They comforted my great-grandfather, *Lolo* Pitong. There were lots of people. My great-grandmother had nine children and each had built a family of their own.

I spent a lot of time with my 12-year-old aunt Karen, her crazy brother Emmanuel, my sister Nicole and sometimes with another young aunt Divine.

There was a very small room full of shelves and that was where the food was. *Tita* Ging and *Tita* Che were in charge of that room and they even called it their *tindahan.* Karen, Divine, my two other aunts—Grace and Doris—and I served food and drinks to everyone. It was like a family reunion. I even met some of my family's friends.

I wanted to go to the burial but my parents didn't allow me. That day, our class picture was going to be taken at school. They didn't want me to miss that. Besides, I had been there every day of the wake anyway..

Three months later, *Lolo* Rino, my grandfather's brother-in-law, was confined at the National Kidney Institute in Quezon City. On March 13, he too passed away. The wake was at the Loyola Memorial Chapel and I was there every day of the five-day wake. *Tita* Che again had a smaller version of her *tindahan.*

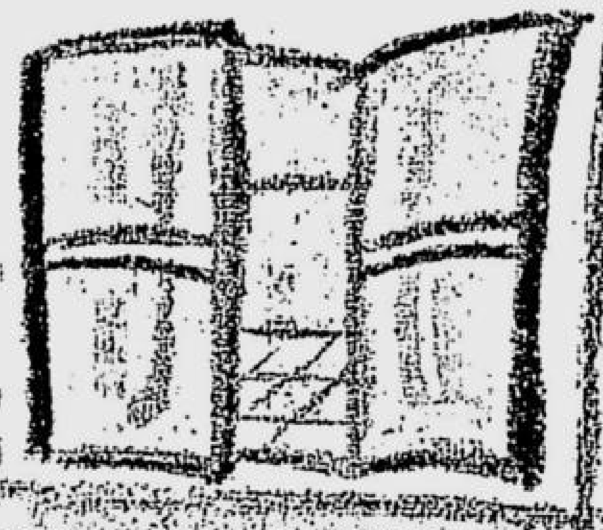
Lolo Rino's funeral Mass was held on a Sunday. It was my first time to attend one. He was buried in Loyola Memorial Park. Many cried, especially his family. I shed a few tears when his coffin was lowered down into the earth. I was sad but I was also happy for now he will rest.

Every beginning has an end and every end has a new beginning. Everyone dies: even my relatives' dog died during the nine-day grief period after *Lolo* Rino died. We should love and cherish our family and friends while they're still there. It's nice to wake up every day knowing that we are being loved by God, being needed by our family and cherished by our friends.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!



To be a good writer

DEAR Editor,

I love JUNIOR INQUIRER! Every week I look for the magazine so I won't miss any issue. I love reading Buckles and Kids r'rrific. Sometimes, my friends and I go to events listed in Out There. Someday, I would like to be in the writing business too. Maybe I'll be a journalist and author. Or maybe even an editor! Could you give me tips on writing? I really want to be a good writer and your comments would be a great start for me, thanks.—
DIANA CELERINA AVIADO,
PWU-JASMS, Quezon City

DEAR Diana,

Most good writers really read a lot. So, enjoy reading as many books as you can. This way, you're more familiar with whatever language you choose to write in AND you get to explore different worlds through stories. You may also want to start writing your journal or diary. When you practice writing regularly, you won't have much trouble turning in those essays or papers for school. Best of luck!—***The Editor***

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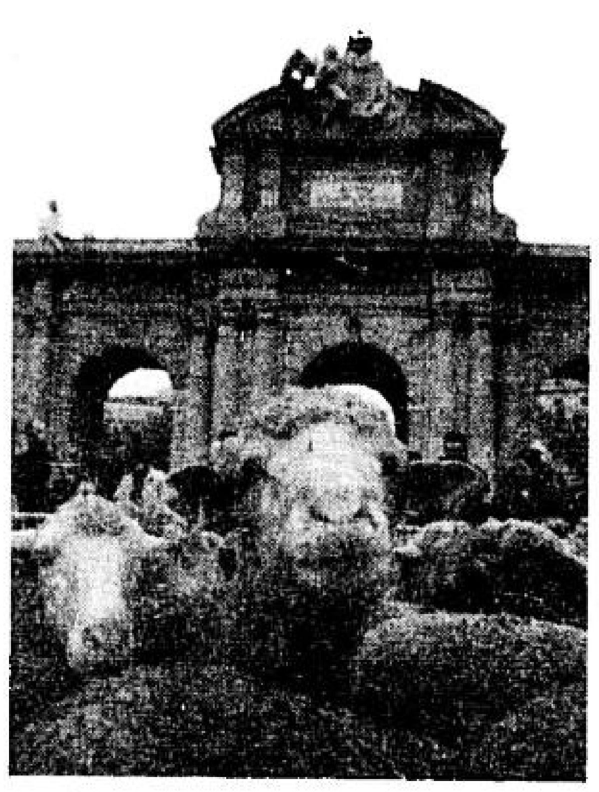
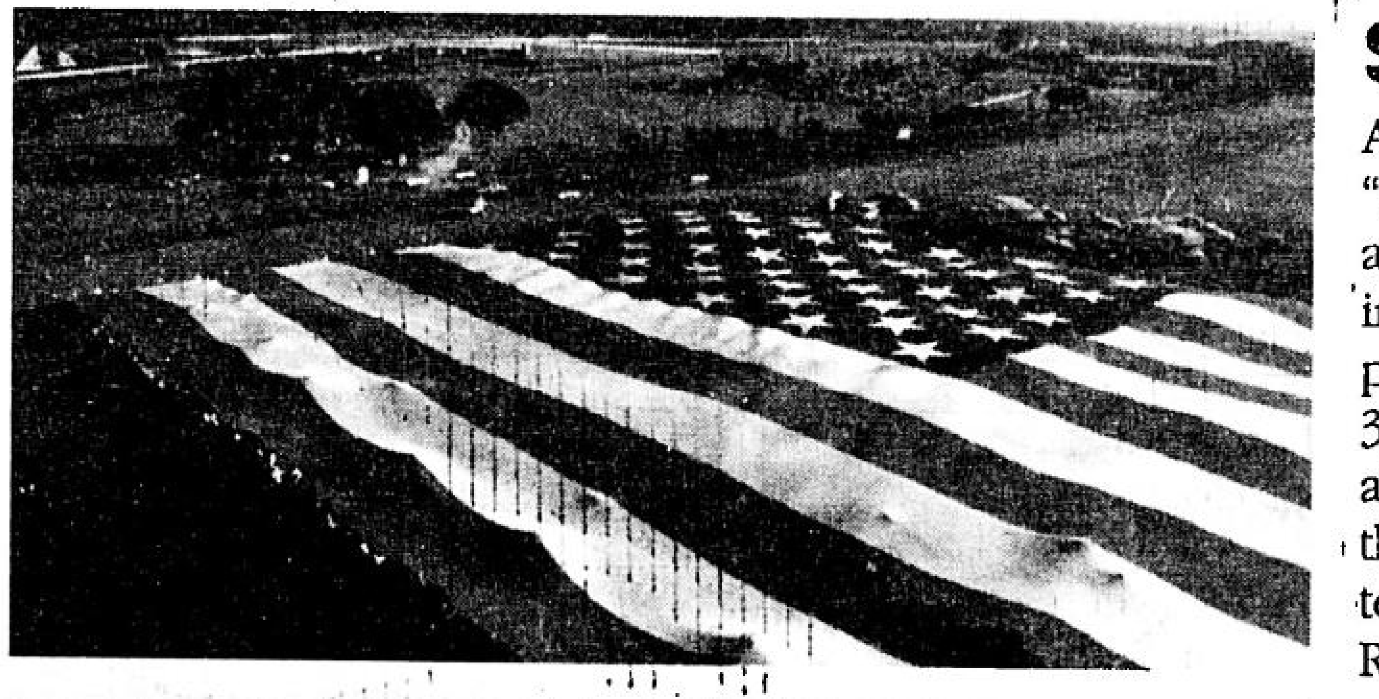
WORLD SCOPE

The Sheep's Way



SHEEP pass by the Puerta de Alcala monument. Shepherds herded them through central Madrid to call attention to the sheep's ancient migration routes. Some of the routes have now been covered by concrete buildings. ***AP***



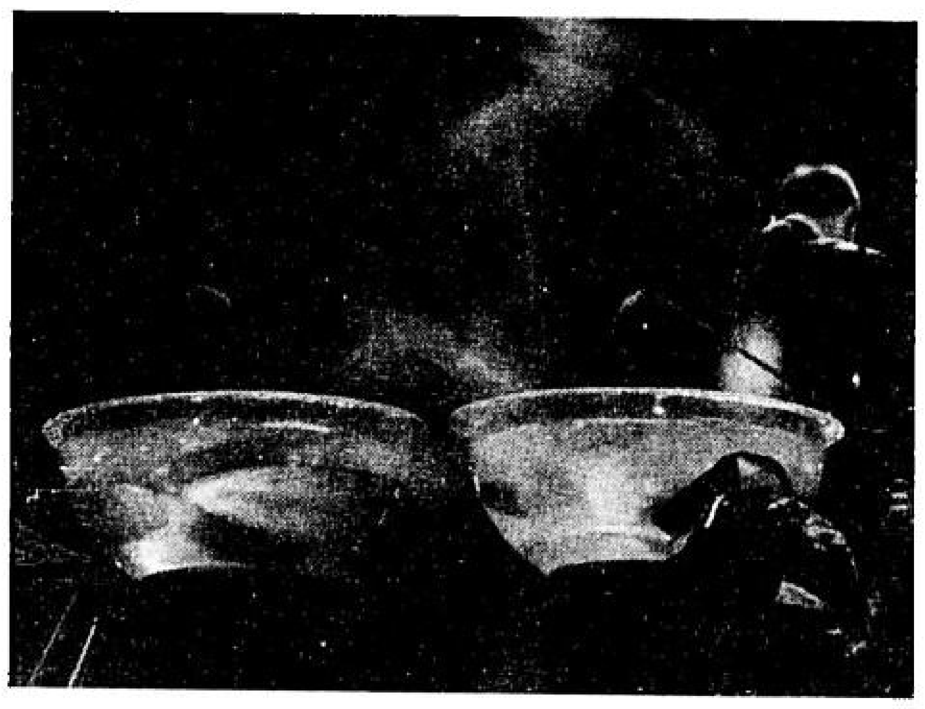
Super Flag

A 505-FOOT by 255-foot "Superflag" is unfurled Nov. 2 at the Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa. An estimated 1,000 people volunteered to keep the 3,000-plus-pound flag unfurled and off the ground for more than an hour in a successful attempt to set a Guinness World Record. ***AP***

Madrid, Spain
Tampa,USA
London, England
Changsa, China

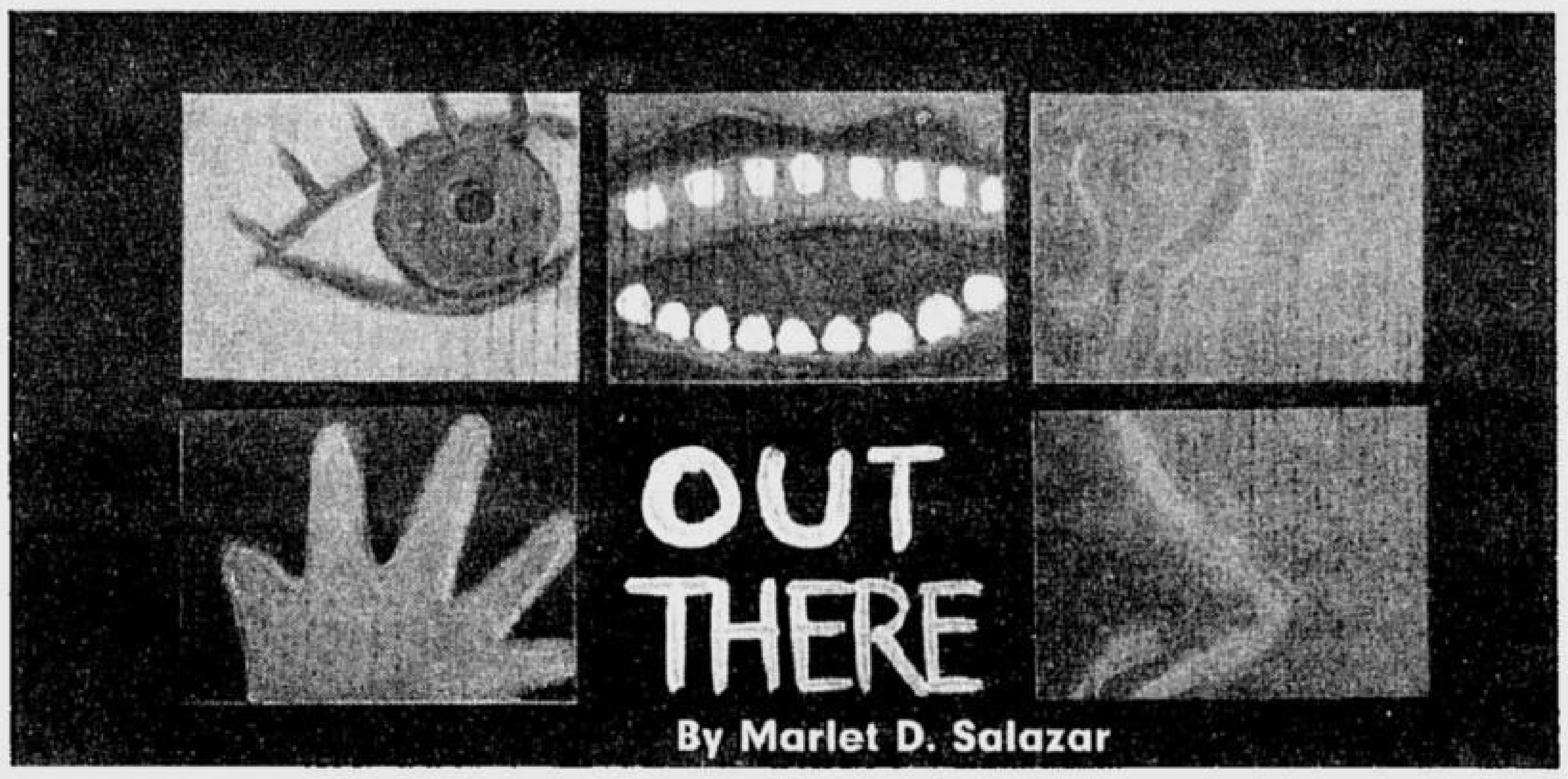
'Harry Potter' film premieres in London

RUPERT Grint (Ron Weasley), Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter) and Emma Watson (Hermione Granger), with author J.K. Rowling (at back) arrive for the world film premiere of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" at the Odeon in London's Leicester Square. The British trio, getting their first taste of celebrity, seemed happy, stunned, and nervous before the masses of cameras and microphones, and the voices shouting their names from every direction. "I am almost numb with nerves and that has never happened before," Daniel said. "I woke up last night at 3 a.m., 4 a.m., and 6 a.m., and although I am very nervous I am also extremely excited and happy today." British critics gave the 153-minute film an ecstatic thumbs up and described it as "pure magic." ***AP***



Water Music

AMERICAN drummer David Carson beats on a special drum that uses water drawn from an ancient well, at a concert in Changsha. The concert was conducted by Oscar-winning composer Tan Dun and featured different devises which produced various sounds using water. ***AP/Xinhua***



OUT THERE

By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Check this out!

WORLD'S BEST CHILDREN'S BOOKS. Want to see loads of exciting and really good books? One set of the 2000 International Board on Books for Young People Honour List—a biennial selection of the world's best children's books—is now permanently on display at the International School Manila. The books may also be viewed at the Children's Library in Robinsons Galleria in December. Those who want to see this collection can call up 372-3548 or send an email to pbby@adarna.com.ph

Workshops

TOY-MAKING. Adarna House will host a toy-making workshop titled "Toys and Games for Stories." It will be a fun activity for parents and kids as the toy-making will use simple steps and easy-to-find materials. Carleen Sacris will facilitate the workshop, she is the author of "Toys and Games" manual from Adarna. Admission fee is only P50. Venues are at Powerbooks Megamall tomorrow and Alabang Town Center on Nov. 24 at 2:30 p.m. For inquiries call up 410-5200 and look for Mabi or Allan.

CHILDREN'S DRAMA. Discover the exciting world of theater! Children ages 9 to 12 are invited to join a drama workshop to be facilitated by theater arts teacher Lorely Trinidad on Nov. 20 to Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. The workshop's culminating activity will be a Christmas presentation. Limited to 20 slots only. Call up Museo Pambata at 523-1797 to 98 or visit them at Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila.

CRAFT AND ENTREPRENEUR. A whole day of workshop for young and adults on how to make different dolls and Christmas decorations. Every Saturday, Nov. 10 to 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. To register please call the Museo Pambata and look for Tenten.

Activities

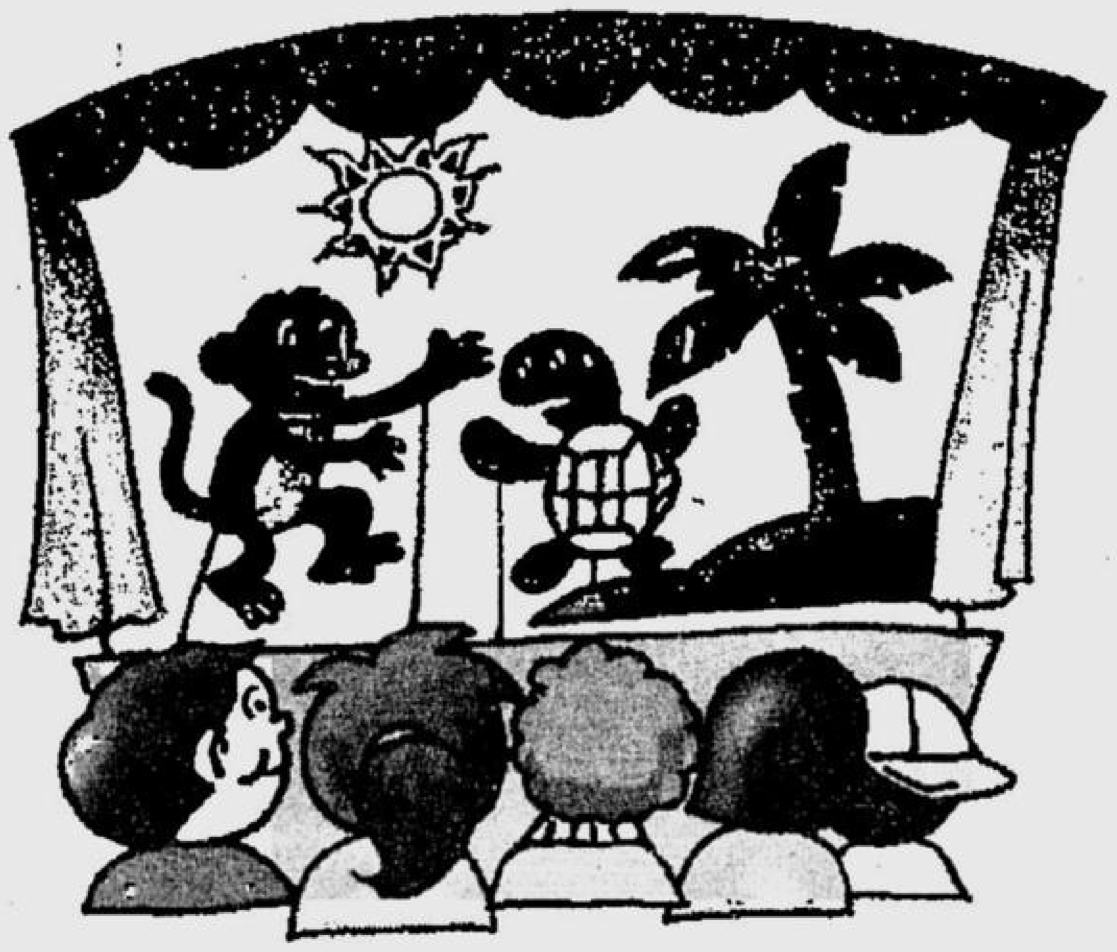
EARLY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR. Get some cool gifts this Christmas for your family and friends at the Let It Shine Foundation's Special Christmas Bazaar at the Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, Quezon City tomorrow at 9 a.m.-8:30pm. There's an entrance fee of P50. This is for the benefit of Shine Intervention Center, a school for special children. For details, contact Rhea Joaquin at 671-2096 or 0917-4395769.

Stuff

DOG BOOK. National Geographic brings you a book about the tale of a dog, new to New York, who feels sad and lonely until befriended by a Native New York hound, who introduces him to the exciting sights and sounds of the city. Friends, Rover and Pepper will surely delight you with their adventures in the book "It's a Dog New York: A Look at the Big Apple from a Canine Point of View." Check it out at the nearest specialty bookstore.

Museum Moments

PUPPETS GALORE. Watch ventriloquist Ony Carcamo and his amusing band of puppets as they teach the importance of proper nutrition in keeping our bodies healthy through this extraordinary art form at the Katawan Ko Theme Room, Museo Pambata of Nov. 22, 2 p.m.; Nov. 24 at 10 a.m. For inquiries call up 523-1797 to 98.

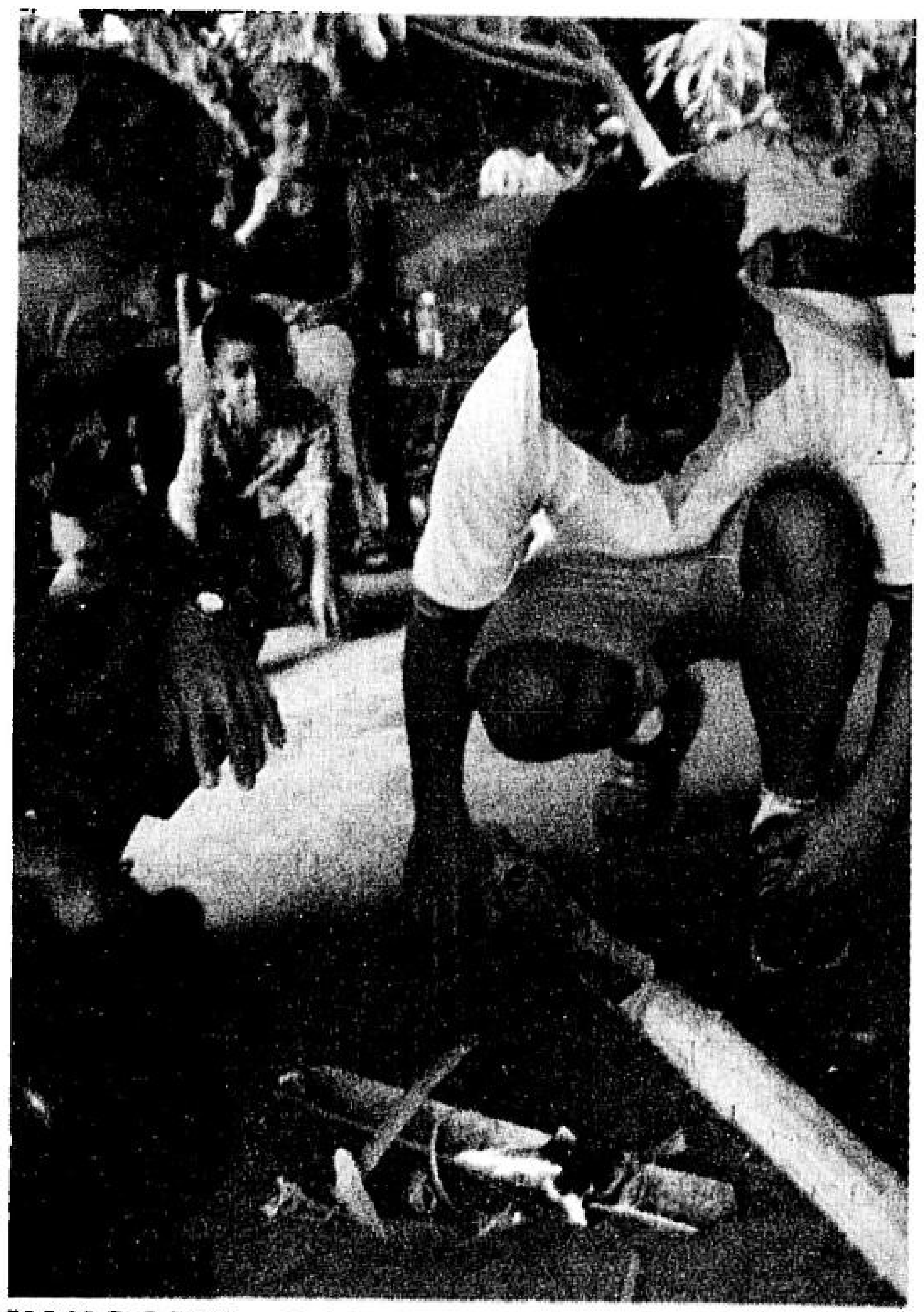


Cable Picks

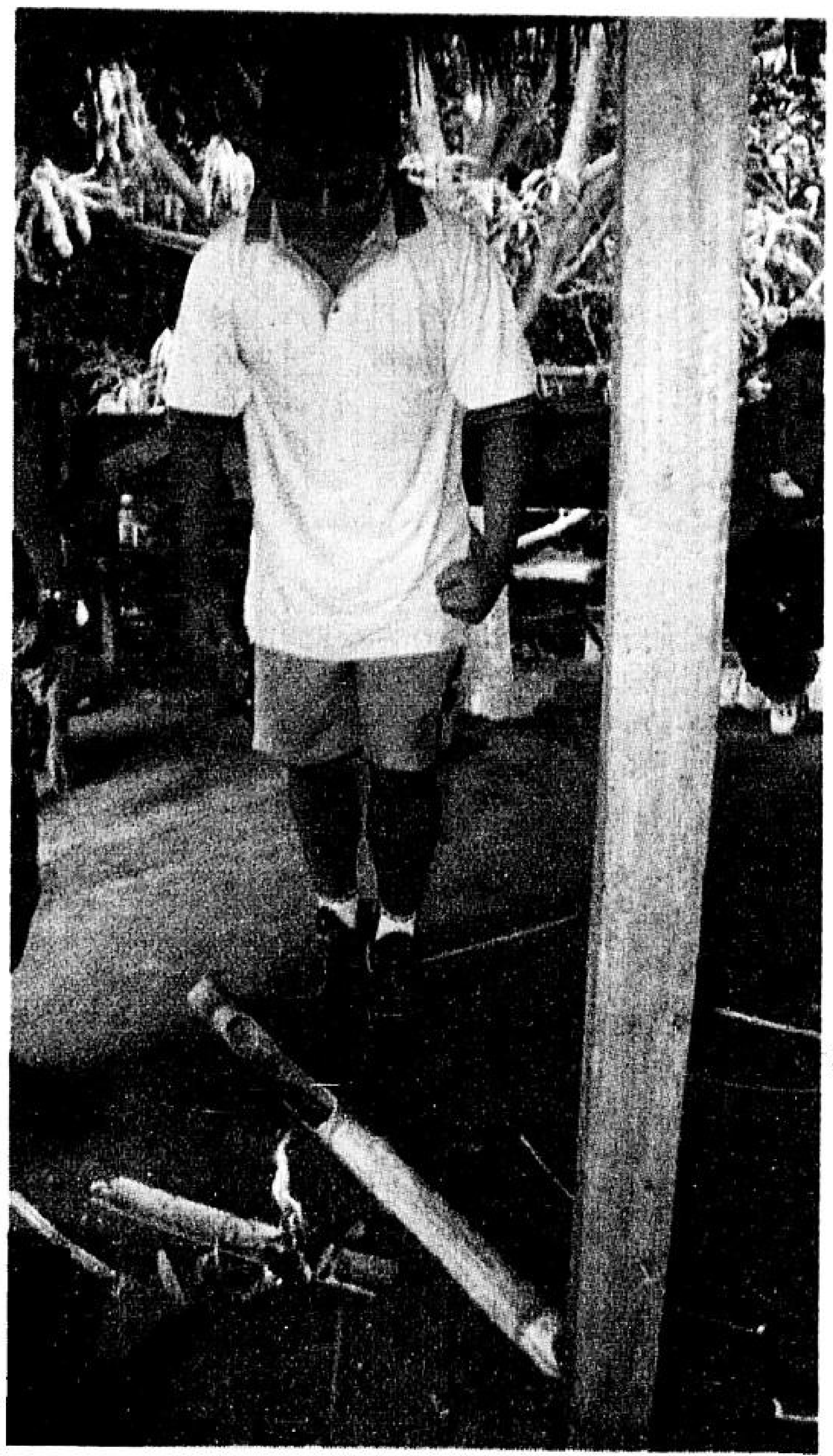
DEXTER GOES GLOBAL. Don't miss "Dexter Goes Global Marathon" tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Cartoon Network viewers around the world will vote for their favorite Dexter episodes. Also new episodes will be telecast on the last hour of the marathon.

FALLING STARS. Do falling stars really fall? Expert panelists at the Amazing Space pub have a few points and identify the objects most likely to fall from the sky and cause the demise of planet Earth on National Geographic Channel's "Pub Guide to the Universe" on Nov. 21 at 11:30 p.m.

WILL camper Christian Carreon be able to make fire by rubbing two pieces of bamboo together?



YAHOO! We did it. He blows on the kindling to feed the flame.



HOORAY for Christian! Photos by NATASHA VIZCARRA

A Trip in the Woods

(from page 1)

When we entered the camp zoo, I was shocked. It seemed that the animals were not being treated well. They looked sad and the cages were small and bare. *Kuya* Alfred assured me, however, that there is already an ongoing zoo rehabilitation project. Boy, that was a relief!

The Elusive Mushroom

At the entrance to the jungle, we were greeted by an imposing figure, an Aztec-like pole. Now, that's what I would call exotic. Further in the jungle was a sprawling maze of trees, trails and large roots plus the extra sticking leaves. *Kuya* Alfred told us these were used as camouflage during war games. You know, those games some grown-ups play where they pretend to be warring teams in the jungle and splat paint against each other.

Along the trail I spotted the elusive Royal Express Mushroom, which the Chinese believe is an effective cure for certain ailments.

My friend Samantha Pizarro and I also spotted some worms, centipedes and a large Daddly long-legs spider which made Sam freak out. My other friend Carlo Guerrero boasted along the trail that he could hike better than the rest of us. That was funny because he slipped as much as we did all the way.

I felt so sad because I saw not one but dozens of trash in the jungle. Should you ever find yourself in a jungle, please pick up the trash. Or better, don't litter at all. Take only pictures and leave only footprints!

As we continued our way through the thick forest, I couldn't help feeling that I was getting the hang of it all. I liked it. The smell, the ambience and the tiring climb up and down the slopes was exciting. In a nutshell, it was fun. Getting out of the jungle from that hike made me say, "This is one thing I would never get tired of doing!"

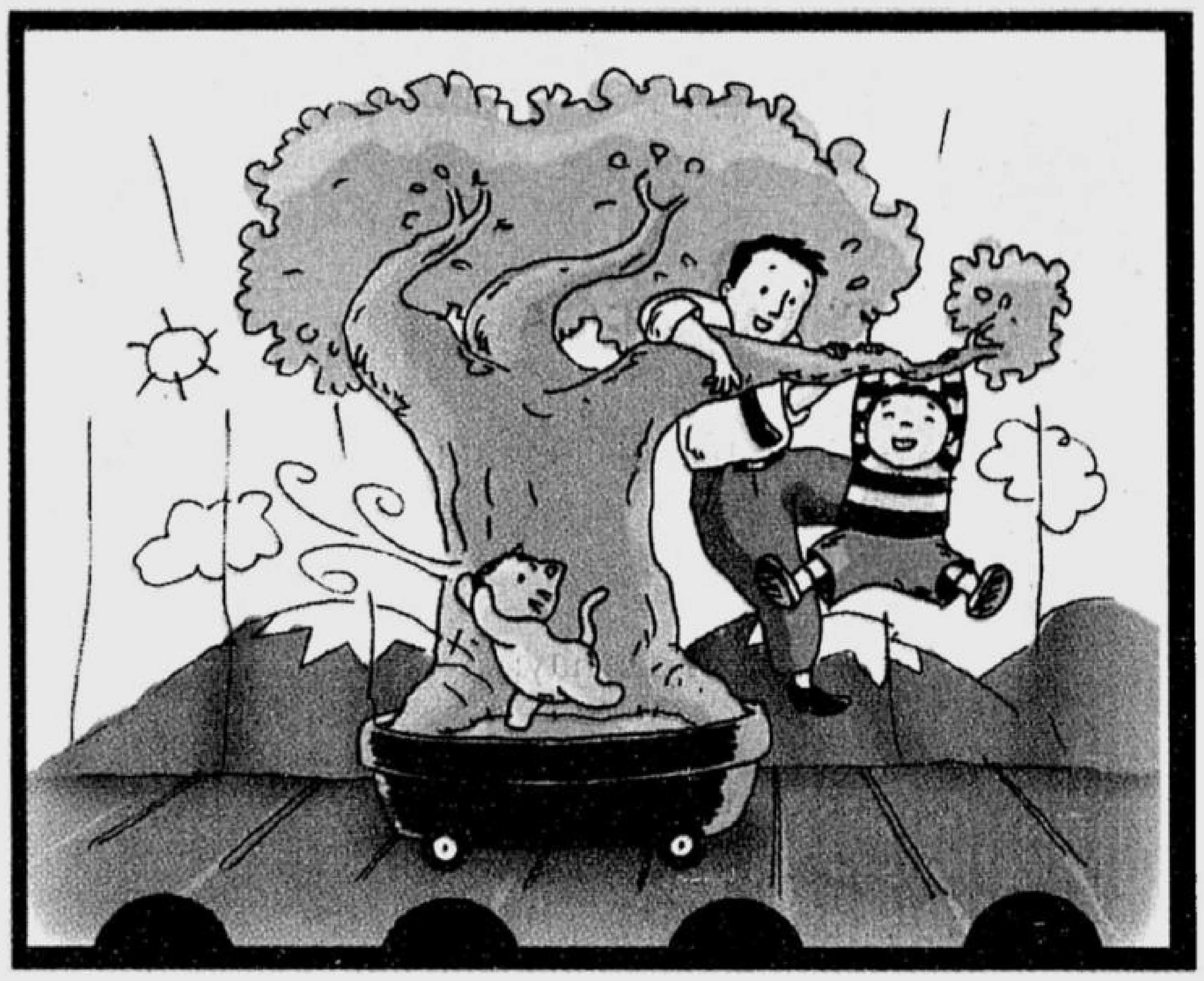
Having a good guide in the jungle is a must too. We were lucky enough to have the accomodating charm and antics of *Kuya* Alfred.

The gang went to the butterfly farm after the hike. I felt like I was reliving my toddler years as butterflies flitted beside me, above my head and right in front of my nose. The feeling became more intense when one of those butterflies clung to me and stayed with me for quite long while. I was speechless.

My wondrous trip in the jungle was both fun and exciting. It was full of discoveries and I even had a good time with my friends. It was something I will treasure in my treasure chest of memories for a long, long, long time.

Lephargy *is the new editor in chief of the Probe Media Foundation Inc. and Unicef newsletter for kids. He is 15 years old and a member of the 5 and Up Club.*

ACME HOUR BIRTHDAY BLAST
CARTOON NETWORK
Ever dreamt of toons from Cartoon Network celebrating your birthdays on-air?
CARTOON NETWORK
Make your dream come true by watching Cartoon Network's ACME HOUR, everyday 6 – 7 am and 8 – 9 pm for more details.
* Promotion runs until March 16, 2002.
Co-sponsors and prize sponsors:
MEGA BLOKS Hot Wheels VTECH MATCHBOX Barbie



Will you play with me?

(For JJ on his 9th birthday)

BY RIZALINO NOBLE MALABED

The sun shines warm
Bright, stinging
The grass is green
Soft, tickling
Will you play with me?

The wind blows cool
Sweet, whispering
The trees reach out
Tall, inviting
Will you play with me?

The sun will read our faces make
As on the grass we lay and bake
To watch cloud wisps and fluffs
Yell and cheer while the sky laughs

Up trunk and branches
We climb, we climb
Like leaves that sway
We swing, we swing
Until we are red, until we are green
Will you play with me?

Run we will till the dusk comes
Our shadows long on earth and stones
Melt into the dim of night that stretch
Revealing countless suns unfold

Will you play with me?

***Rizalino** dedicates this poem to his son*
Miguel Lorenzo or JJ on his ninth birthday last May 7.
He is a research assistant in Tokyo, Japan.

FOR or BY KIDS

ILLUSTRATIONS
BY
ROBERT MAGNUSON

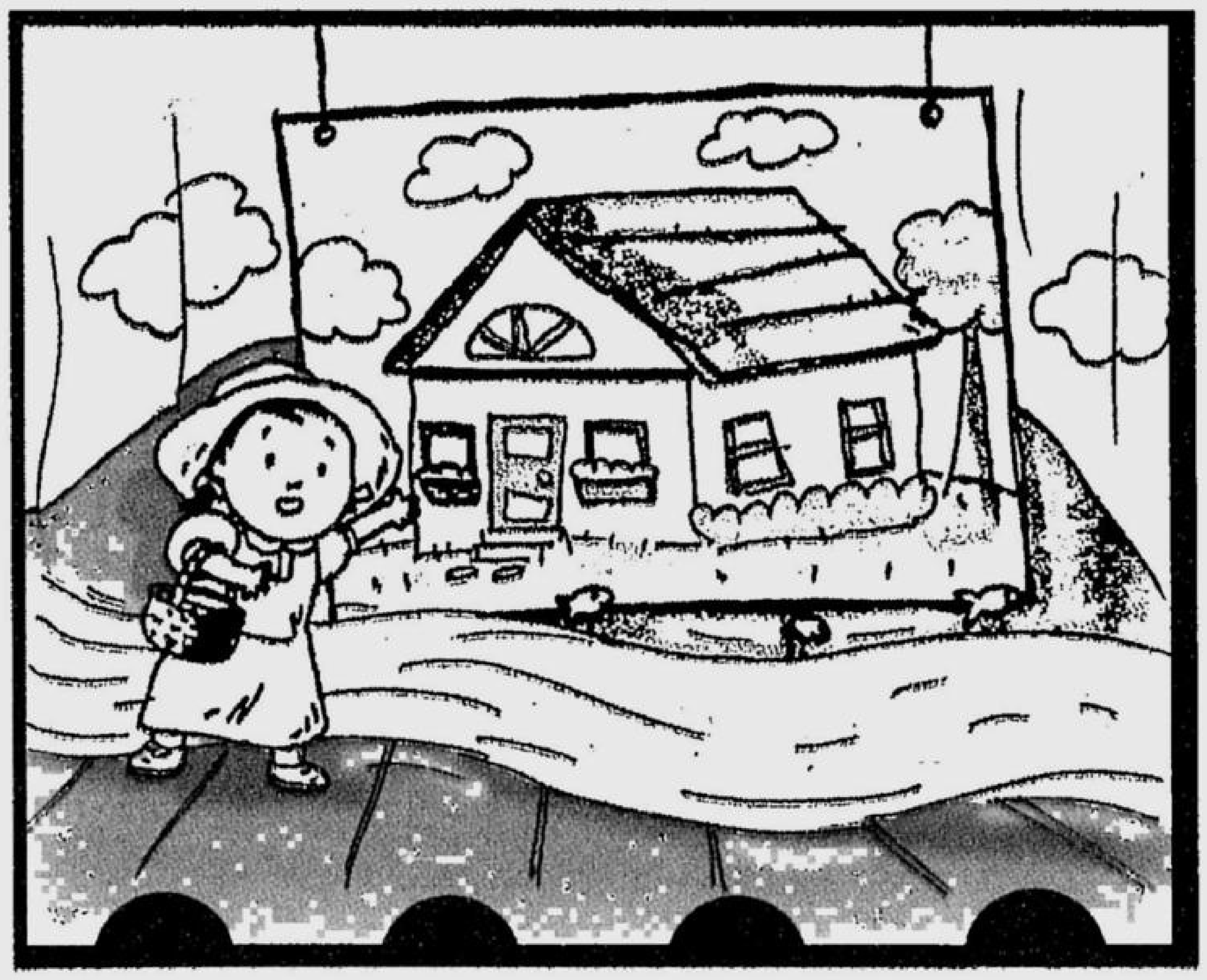
The House by the Stream

BY CARLA DARIO

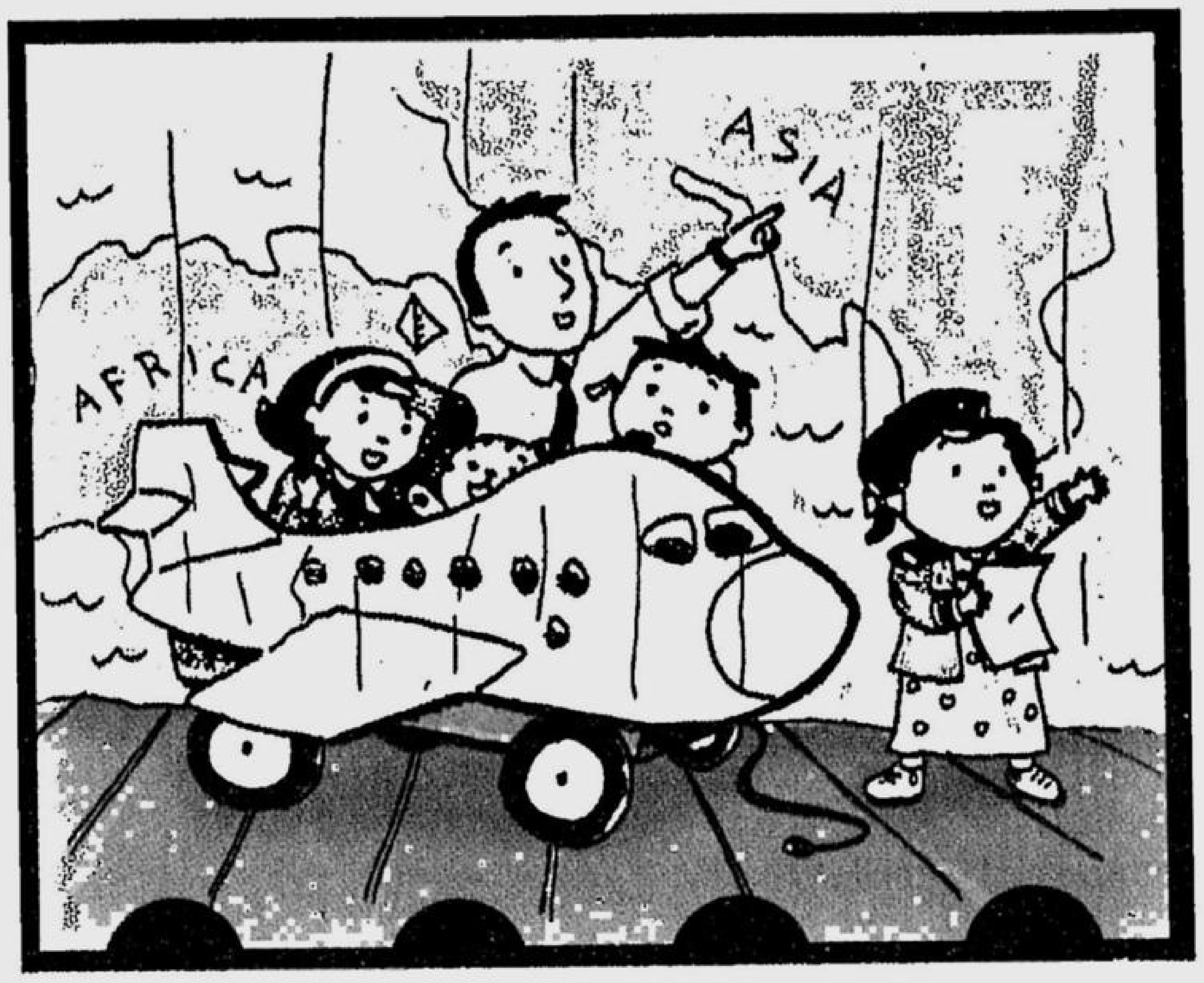
I walked so lonely like a cloud
along the countryside
The grass, the trees swayed happily,
and I saw a house nearby

The roof was brown like the bark of a tree
The windows were shining bright.
The sky was blue and the grass was green
This absolutely looked like home to me!

The clouds were dancing above the house,
that had a bright blue sky
I could see the happy family
This house and family is mine!



***Carla**, 10, lives in Ayala Alabang.*



Nais Kong Lakbayin ang Buong Mundo

Ni Laidee Camille Acacio

Nais kong lakbayin ang buong mundo
Na kasama ang mga mamamayang Pilipino
Mamasyal diyan, doon at dito
Sa mga oras at hindi segundo

Nais kong lakbayin ang buong mundo
Makihalubilo sa mga lahing Amerikano
Mamili niyan, ito ba ay magkano?
Dolyar ang ibabayad at di peso

Nais kong lakbayin ang buong mundo
Hangga't tayo ay magkandahilo-hilo
Tayo'y kumain, huminto sa marahang istilo
Mag-ingat na lang kayo sa mga taong pilyo

Nais kong lakbayin ang buong mundo
Simula Hulyo hanggang Pebrero
Tayo nang maglaro, mag-bingo tayo
Walang pikunan sa mga natatalo

Nais kong lakbayin ang buong mundo
Sana naman ito ay magkatotoo
Magustuhan mo sana ang handog ko
At dito na nagtatapos ang paglalakbay sa kuwento.

*Si **Laidee**, 13, ay nakatira*
sa San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

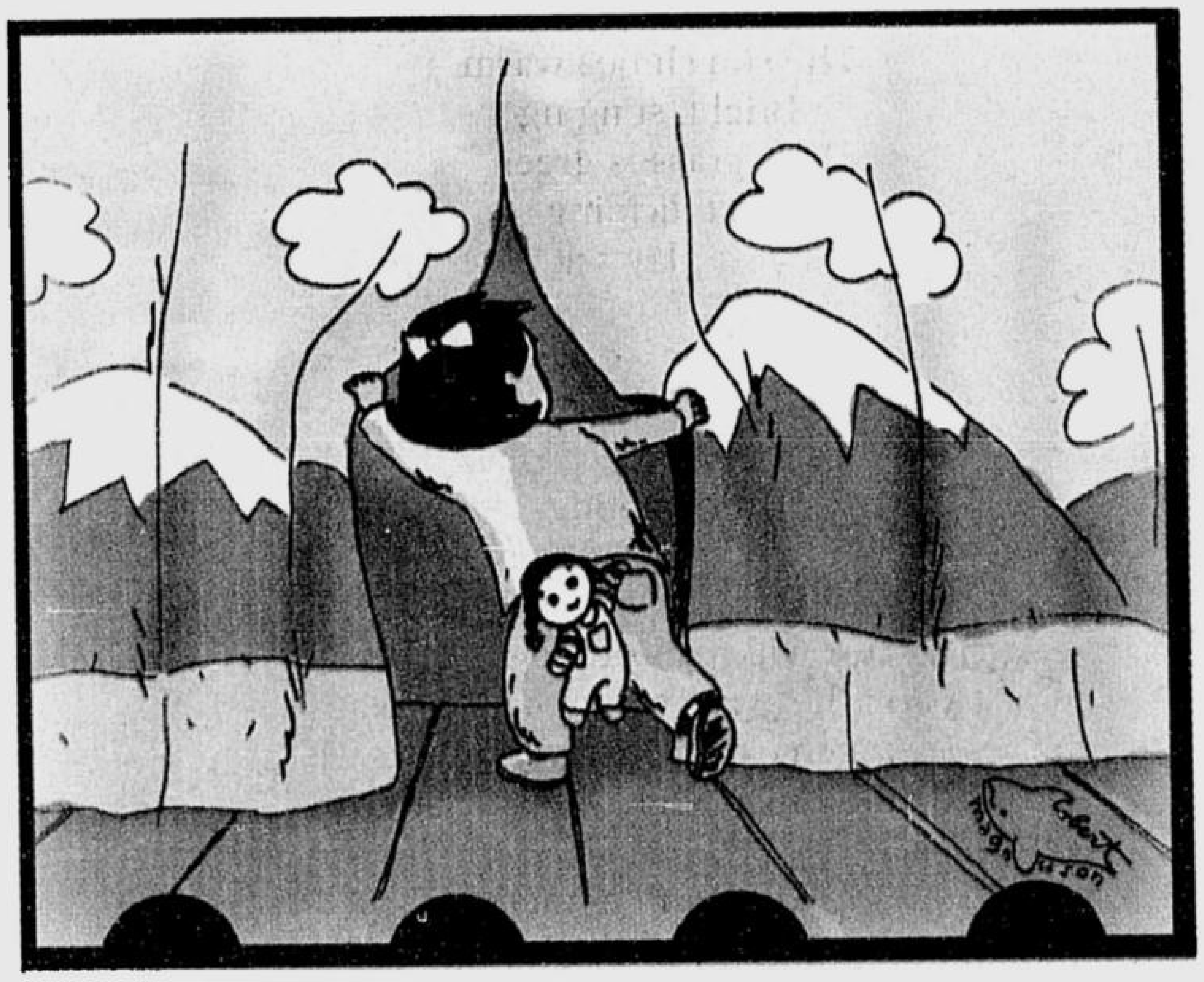
I Wonder What Lies Beyond

By Nao Lacaba

I wonder what lies beyond
That mountain range I see,
Where a stretch of smokey blue
Lies still as eternity;

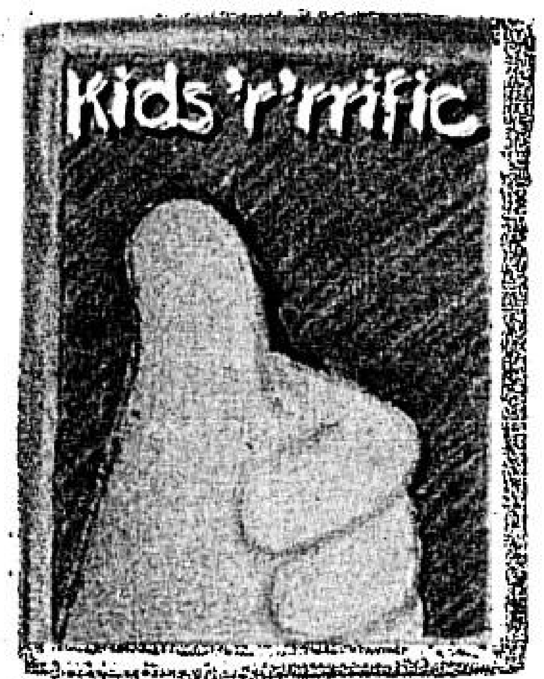
Where a dazzling sun wakes up
To sprinkle dust of gold,
And a rainbow hangs suspended
As seen by Noah of old;

I wonder what lies beyond
That mountain range I see,
Someday when I'm old enough
Its secrets I will free.



__Nao__, 23, graduated with a degree of BA Communication Arts from the University of the Philippines in the Visayas. She enjoys reading the works of Angela Manalang-Gloria.

__Robert__ is the creator of "Shirley's Pets." He lives in Marikina with his wife Shirley. He is a memer of Kuwentista ng mga Tsikiting or Kuting.



Stovall's Idea

Starting this month, Kids' r'rriffic will, from time to time, feature amazing kids from other countries. Twelve-year-old Chaille Stoval from the US will surely inspire Filipino kids who want to become filmmakers someday

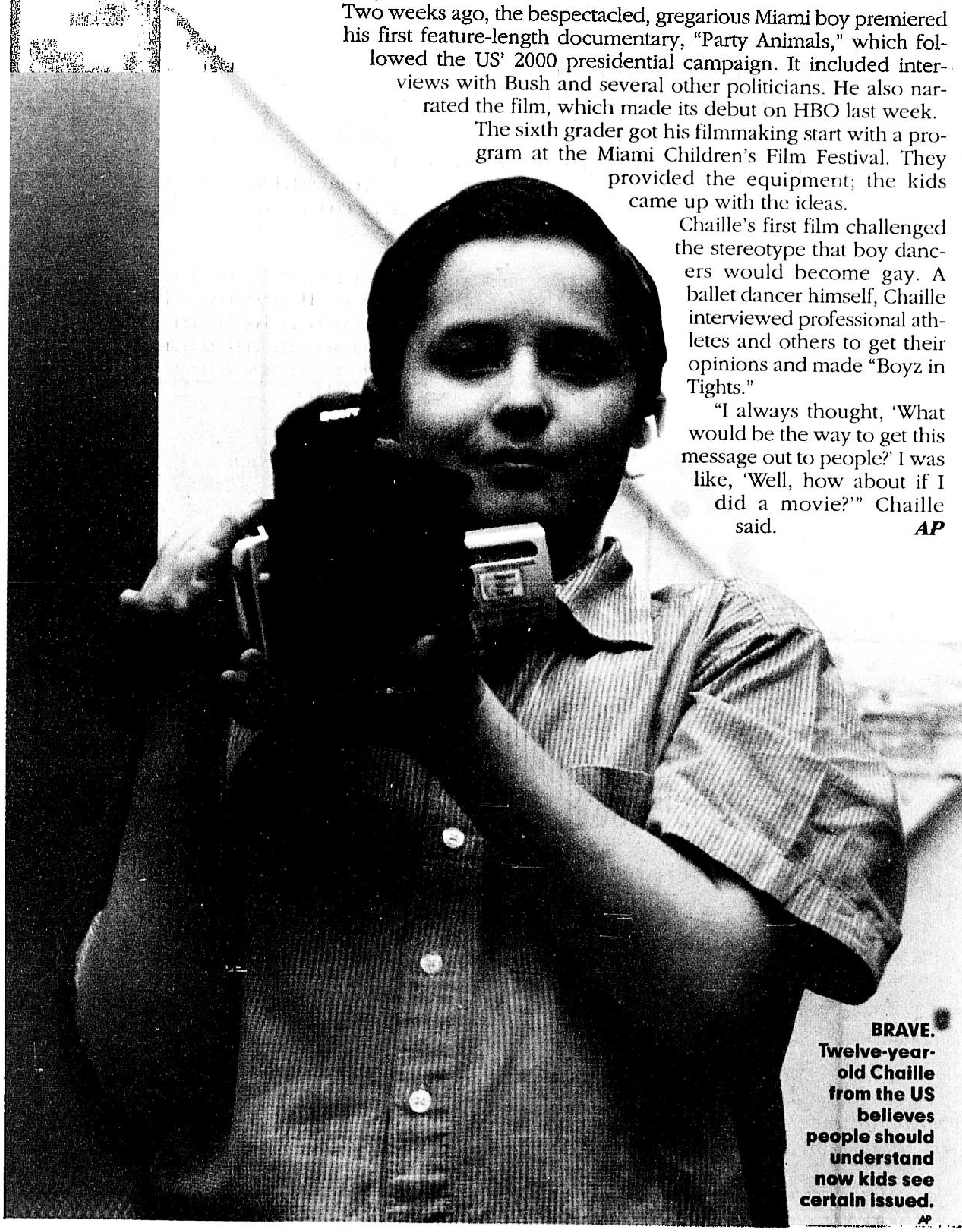
TWELVE-YEAR-OLD Chaille Stovall has interviewed the Dalai Lama and US President George Bush, for four documentaries—not bad for a 12-year-old.

Two weeks ago, the bespectacled, gregarious Miami boy premiered his first feature-length documentary, "Party Animals," which followed the US' 2000 presidential campaign. It included interviews with Bush and several other politicians. He also narrated the film, which made its debut on HBO last week.

The sixth grader got his filmmaking start with a program at the Miami Children's Film Festival. They provided the equipment; the kids came up with the ideas.

Chaille's first film challenged the stereotype that boy dancers would become gay. A ballet dancer himself, Chaille interviewed professional athletes and others to get their opinions and made "Boyz in Tights."

"I always thought, 'What would be the way to get this message out to people?' I was like, 'Well, how about if I did a movie?'" Chaille said. ***AP***



BRAVE. Twelve-year-old Chaille from the US believes people should understand now kids see certain issued. AP

R U RRIFIC

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're `Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free **Junior Inquirer T-shirt!**

Kid 'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: ______________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

____
____
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at

____
____
____

and studies at

____

Her/his contact number is:

____

Sender's Name:

____

Sender's Age & School:

_______, ______________________

Sender's Address:

____
____

Sender's Contact No.

CAMPUS NEWS

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

MEET THE PASAWAYS!*

THE 5 and Up Club has something to smile about these days. They now have a new newsletter staff, chosen from the participants of a four-day intensive kiddie journalism workshop.

Around 40 young writers from ages 10 to 16 trooped to Subic's Jest Camp last month for some serious writing exercises and serious fun in the forest. They wrote essays, news articles and feature articles. They played games, made new friends, laughed and sang around a camp fire and hiked through a forest. ***(See page 1 story.).***

After that, top writers were chosen to head the quarterly Probe Media Foundation and Unicef newsletter. The kids then proceeded to churn out their first issue at the CAL computer school in SM Megamall.

Check out the newsletter staff on the next column. The newsletter will be distributed to all members of the 5 and Up Club and partner organizations of Unicef Manila. Five and Up is a weekly tele-magazine for kids shown every Saturday morning on Channel 7.

To all participants of the journalism workshop, congratulations and best of luck!

The new staff is composed of:

Editor in Chief - Lephargy Gellena (Gentle Shepherd School)

Associate Editor - Ivan John Clement (Notre Dame Greater Manila)

News Editors - Zaide Certeza (Binangonan Catholic College) and Francisco Nido Jr. (Binangonan Catholic College)

News Writers – Meldy Natividad (Justo Lukban Elementary School), Allan Sarabia (Mater Carmeli School), Joy Alvarez (New Cabalan Elementary School), Cris Anonuevo (Benedictine School of Cavite), Pamela Santuico (Manuel Roxas High Scool), Cherry Rose Tolentino (Manuel Roxas High School) and Jonathan Otic (Rizal National High School of Mindoro)

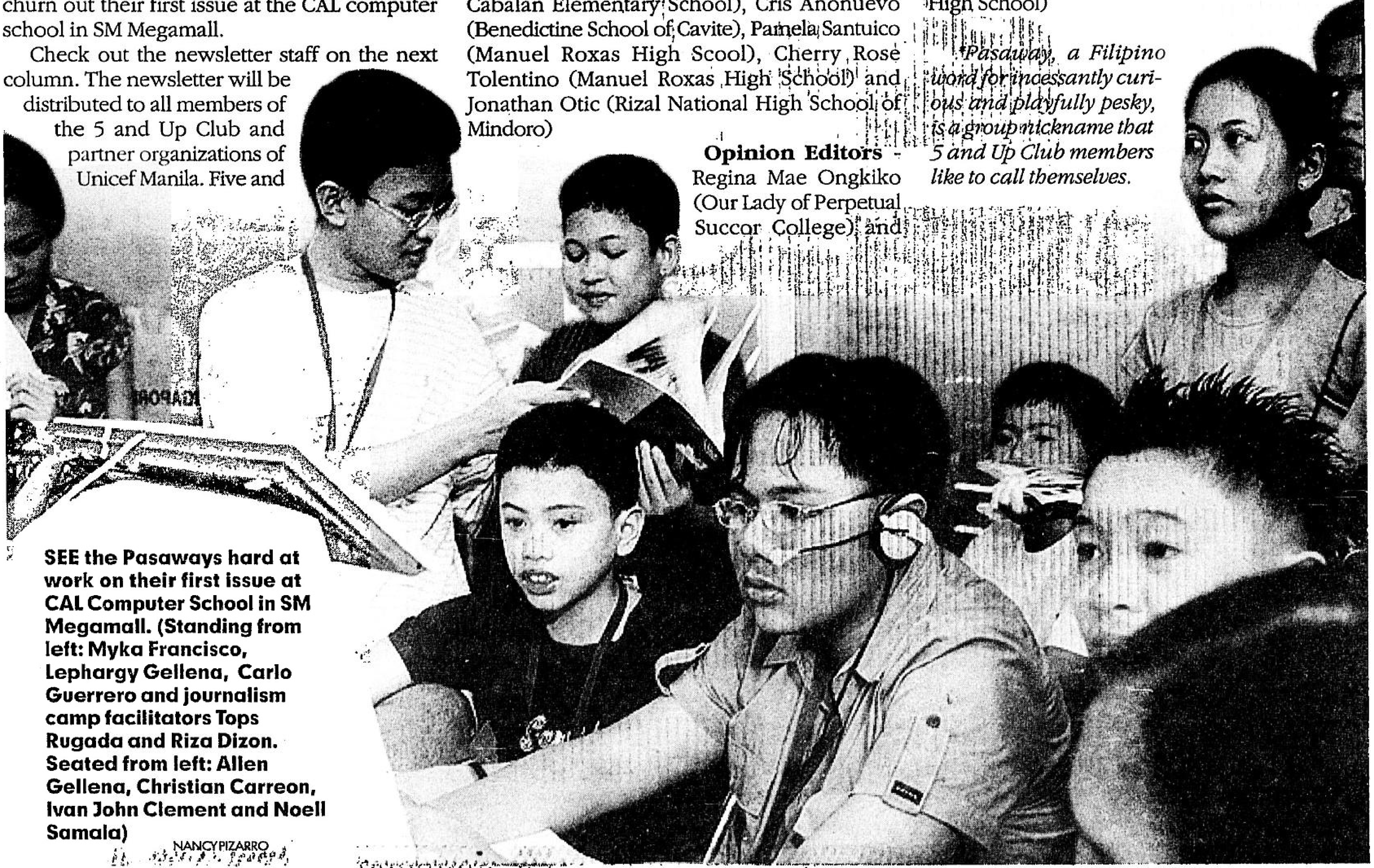
Opinion Editors - Regina Mae Ongkiko (Our Lady of Perpetual Succor College) and Levely Esguerra (Binangonan Catholic College)

Opinion Page Writers – Monina Elisha de Jesus (Poveda), Ernica de Guzman (St. Theresa's College), Toni Kaye Mercado (Baesa Elementary School) and Shiela Marie Estocado (Macario B. Asistio High School)

Feature Editors - Ana Marika Francisco (Assumption Antipolo) and Christobal Flores (Silahis ng Katarungan, Paco)

Feature Writers – Carlo Federico Guerrero (St. Anthony School), Gilbert Caganda (Carolina National High School), Christian Jan Carreon (Trinitas School of Bulacan), Sam Pizarro (Community of Learners), Milagros Semillano (ERDA Tech) and Macario Villaluz (Rizal National High School)

*Pasaway, a Filipino word for incessantly curious and playfully pesky, is a group nickname that 5 and Up Club members like to call themselves.



SEE the Pasaways hard at work on their first issue at CAL Computer School in SM Megamall. (Standing from left: Myka Francisco, Lephargy Gellena, Carlo Guerrero and journalism camp facilitators Tops Rugada and Riza Dizon. Seated from left: Allen Gellena, Christian Carreon, Ivan John Clement and Noell Samala)

NANCY PIZARRO

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CAMPUS NEWS

ABKD WINNERS

THE CITIZENS' Disaster Response Center announces the winners of the recently concluded Apoy, Bagyo, Kalamidad: Dibuhong Pambata 2001 poster-making contest for children.

A total of 509 entries were sent by 477 children from eight regions of the country. Eleven entries depicting what children can do before, during and after a disaster takes place, were chosen as winners.

Category A major prize winners are Erlene Mae T. Serneo of Tetuan Central School in Zamboanga City and Kathleen Grace D. Benavidez of Bagong Diwa Elementary School in Pandacan, Manila. Consolation prizes were won by Zheena F. Santos of Trinidad Tecson Elementary School, Eunice Hazel A. Rosales also of Trinidad Tecson Elementary School, Marilex B. Hermosura of Panicuason Elementary School in Naga City and Julie Rose M. Jason of Tagkawayan Central Elementary School in Tagkawayan, Quezon.

Category B major prize winners are Kianelli Ann M. Palles of Canlubang Elementary School in Laguna and Kryztal P. Garcia of Tagkawayan Central Elementary School.

All 509 entries represented the 12 disaster types in the two categories. The judges, however, declared no winner in Category B's militarization or armed conflict.

Major prize winners will each receive P5,000 each while consolation prize winners will receive P1,000 each. Winners will receive certificates of recognition while non-winning participants will receive certificates of participation. As part of the prize, winning entries will be featured in CDRC's 2002 Disaster Preparedness Calendar and other publications published by CDRC.

A simple awarding ceremony was held on Oct. 30 at the conference room of CDRC.

¿ThinkathoN?

BY BONG BARRAMEDA

Opening Lines

LISTED here are the first lines of 12 famous children's books. Do you know to which book each belongs? Bonus: Score an extra point if you can name the author as well.

1. *Mr. and Mrs. Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, we're proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.*
2. *Dorothy lived in the midst of the great Kansas prairies, with Uncle Henry, who was a farmer, and Aunt Em, who was the farmer's wife.*
3. *All children, except one, grow up.*
4. *Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice "without pictures or conversation?"*
5. *"Christmas won't be Christmas without any presents," grumbled Jo, lying on the rug.*
6. *It was seven o'clock of a very warm evening in the Seeonee hills when Father Wolf woke up from his day's rest, scratched himself, yawned, and spread out his paws one after the other to get rid of the sleepy feeling in their tips.*
7. *These two very old people are the father and mother of Mr. Bucket.*
8. *I will begin the story of my adventures with a certain morning early in the month of June, the year of grace 1751, when I took the key for the last time out of the door of my father's house.*
9. *The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home.*
10. *"Where's Papa going with that ax?" said Fern to her mother as they were setting the table for breakfast.*
11. *For many days we had been tempest-tossed.*
12. *The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it.*

Answers :

1. **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone** (J. K. Rowling)
2. **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** (L. Frank Baum)
3. **Peter Pan** (James Barrie)
4. **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** (Lewis Carroll)
5. **Little Women** (Louisa May Alcott)
6. **The Jungle Book** (Rudyard Kipling)
7. **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** (Roald Dahl)
8. **Kidnapped** (Robert Louis Stevenson)
9. **The Wind in the Willows** (Kenneth Grahame)
10. **Charlotte's Web** (E. B. White)
11. **The Swiss Family Robinson** (Johann Wyss)
12. **Black Beauty** (Anna Sewell)

Ratings :

superbrain!
20 – 24

excellent!
15 – 19

good!
10 – 14

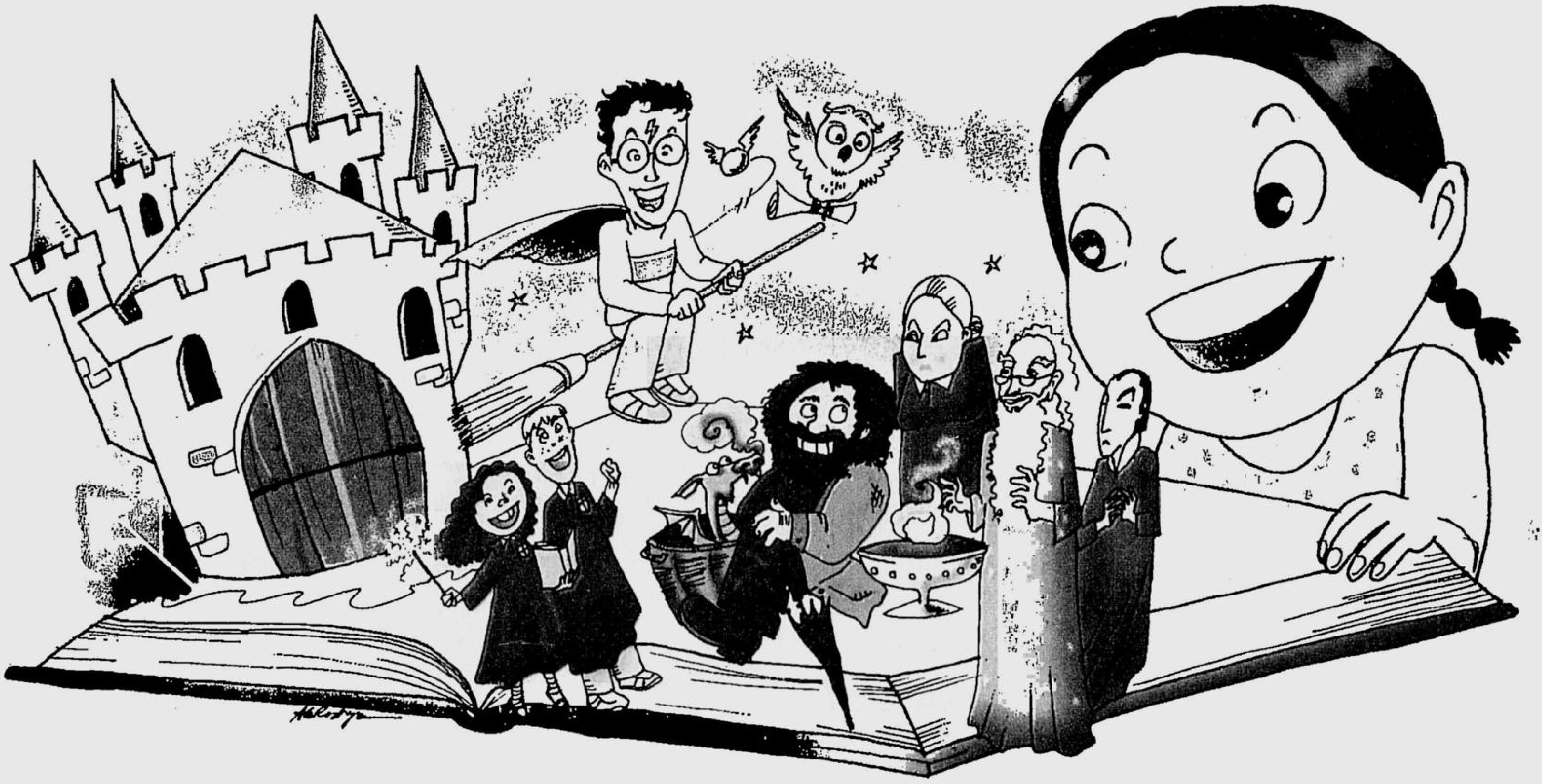
I've been to J.K. Rowling's Pages

By Mithi R. Sevilla

Illustrations by Albert Rodriguez

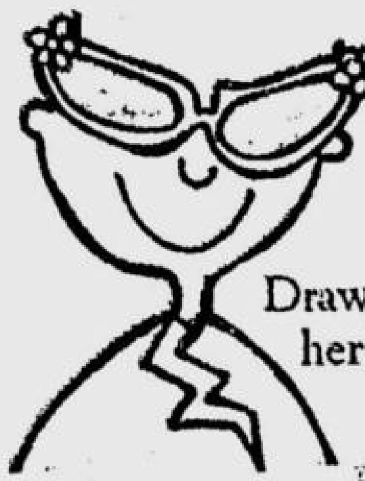
I've been to Hogwarts and
seen the Sorcerer's Stone
I've met McGonagall, Sirius, Snape,
Ron and Hermione
I went to Moaning Myrtles' bathroom
I've gone to the chamber of secrets room
I've written in Tom Riddle's diary two times
I've tasted every flavored bean
that looks like lemon lime
I've seen pretty Cho Chang
and good-looking Cedric
I've heard Rita Skeeter, nosy but not a geek
I've seen Harry Potter play
a Quidditch match
I've seen Death Eaters in Azkaban
that had been difficult to catch
The sorting ceremony I've seen
Sorted in Gryffindor, Ravenclaw,
Hufflepuff, and Slytherin
I've met Harry fans Colin Creevy, Dean
Homas, Neville and Seamus Finnigan
and Harry enemies Malfoy, Grabbe, Goyle
in the sun
I've seen the flaming goblet of fire
In the tri-wizard tournament Mister
I've seen Dumbledore the Headmaster
I've seen Moody's magical eye
(whose real name is Allaster)
I've been to the duel ball, too
and Drum, Fleur and the other crew
I've seen Crookshanks,
Scabber and Hedwig
Errol, Wormtail, Padfoot,
prongs and little owl Pig
I've met cute little Ginny
and her brother Perfect Prefect Percy
I've gone to the haunted Riddle's house
and the invisible cloak marauder map
of course
How can I have done all of these
Turn the pages of J.K. Rowling's books
and you'll see!

***Mithi** is a student at the Community of Learners*



THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa



Harriet needs HAIR.

Draw some and help her out. Thanks!

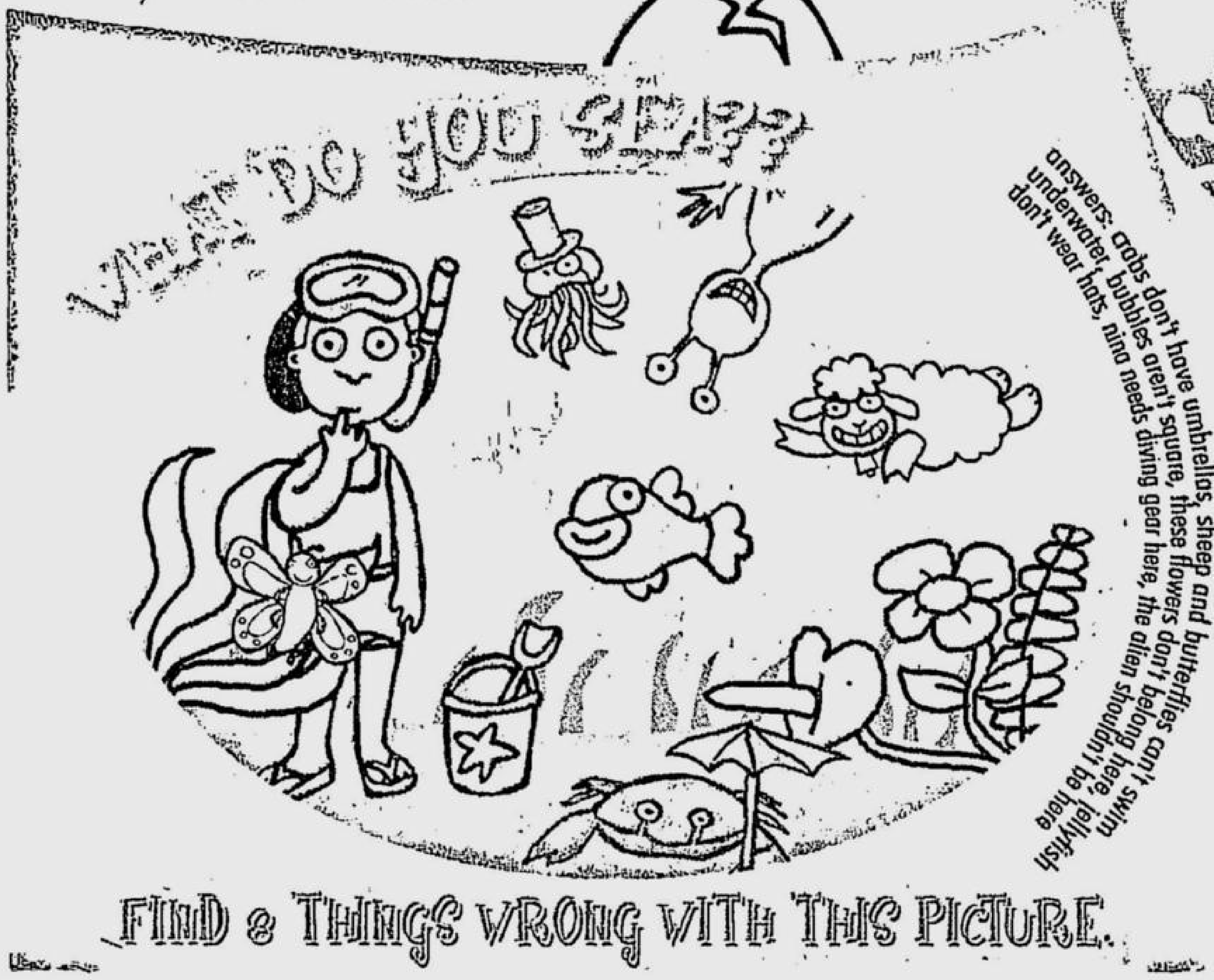
NOY GOES ROUND THE WORLD

COUNTRY NO. 3

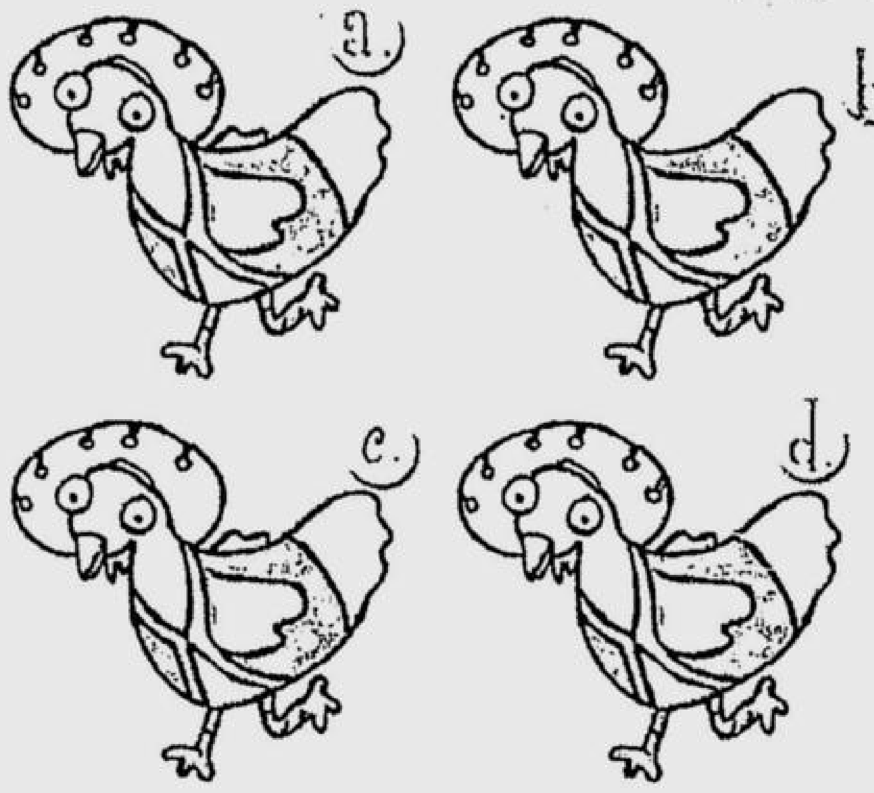
Istanbul is the largest city in this country. It's the only city in the world that has part of it in Asia, and the other in Europe. In the photo I'm standing in front of the Hagia Sophia mosque, one of the country's most famous landmarks. It took 7,000 men and six years to build, and is almost 1,500 years old!

WHAT COUNTRY IS NOY IN?

Write down all 5 countries he visits, then send your complete complete list to The Lunch Box, c/o JI. List ALL 5 COUNTRIES CORRECTLY and WIN A PRIZE!


WHAT DO YOU SEE??
FIND 8 THINGS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE.

answers: crabs don't have umbrellas, sheep and butterflies can't swim underwater, bubbles aren't square, these flowers don't belong here, jellyfish don't wear hats, nina needs diving gear here, the alien shouldn't be here

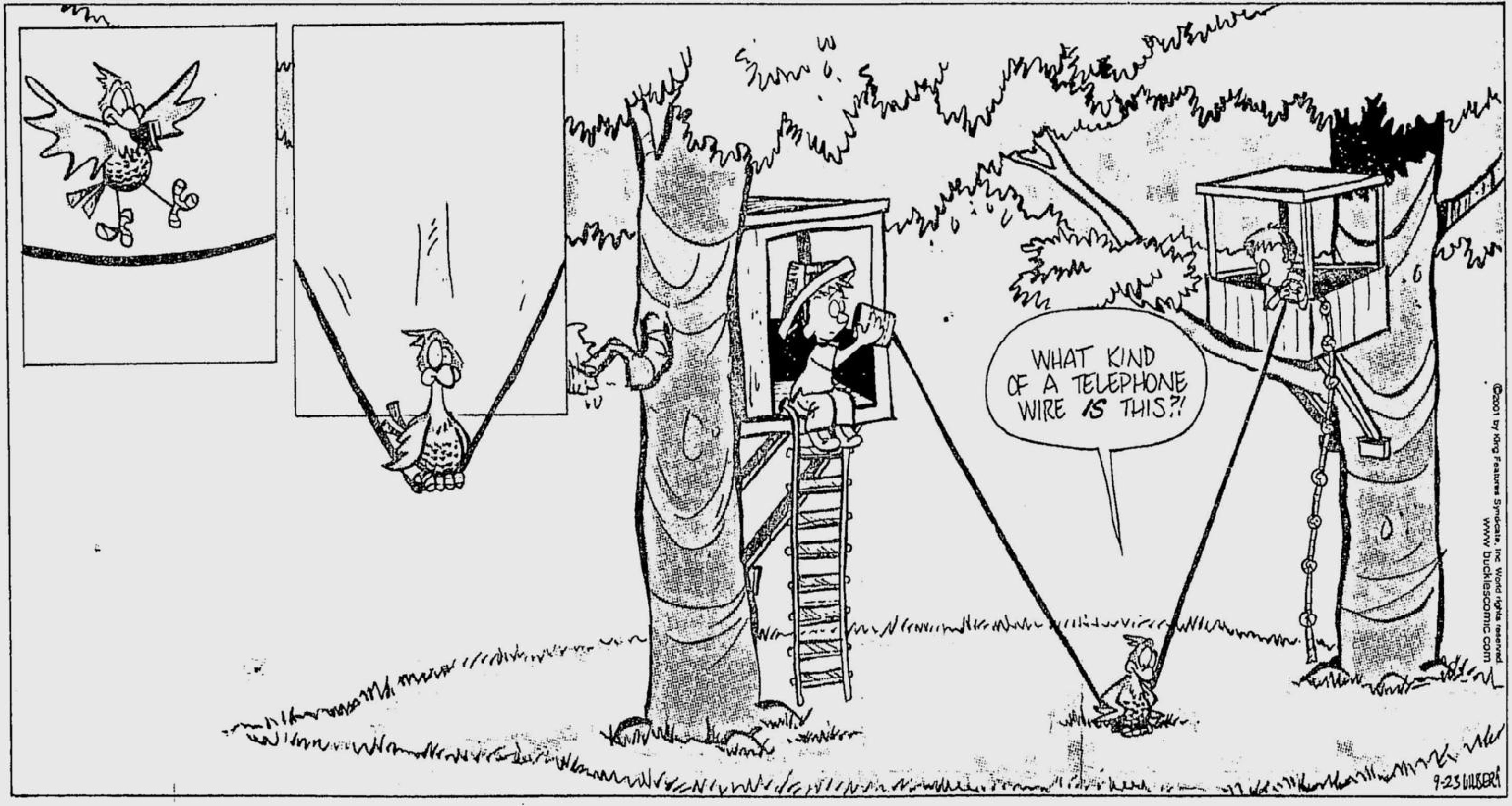


Which Two CHICKENS are exactly ALiKe?

Answer: A and D

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


WHAT KIND OF A TELEPHONE WIRE *IS* THIS?!
9-23 GILBERT

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